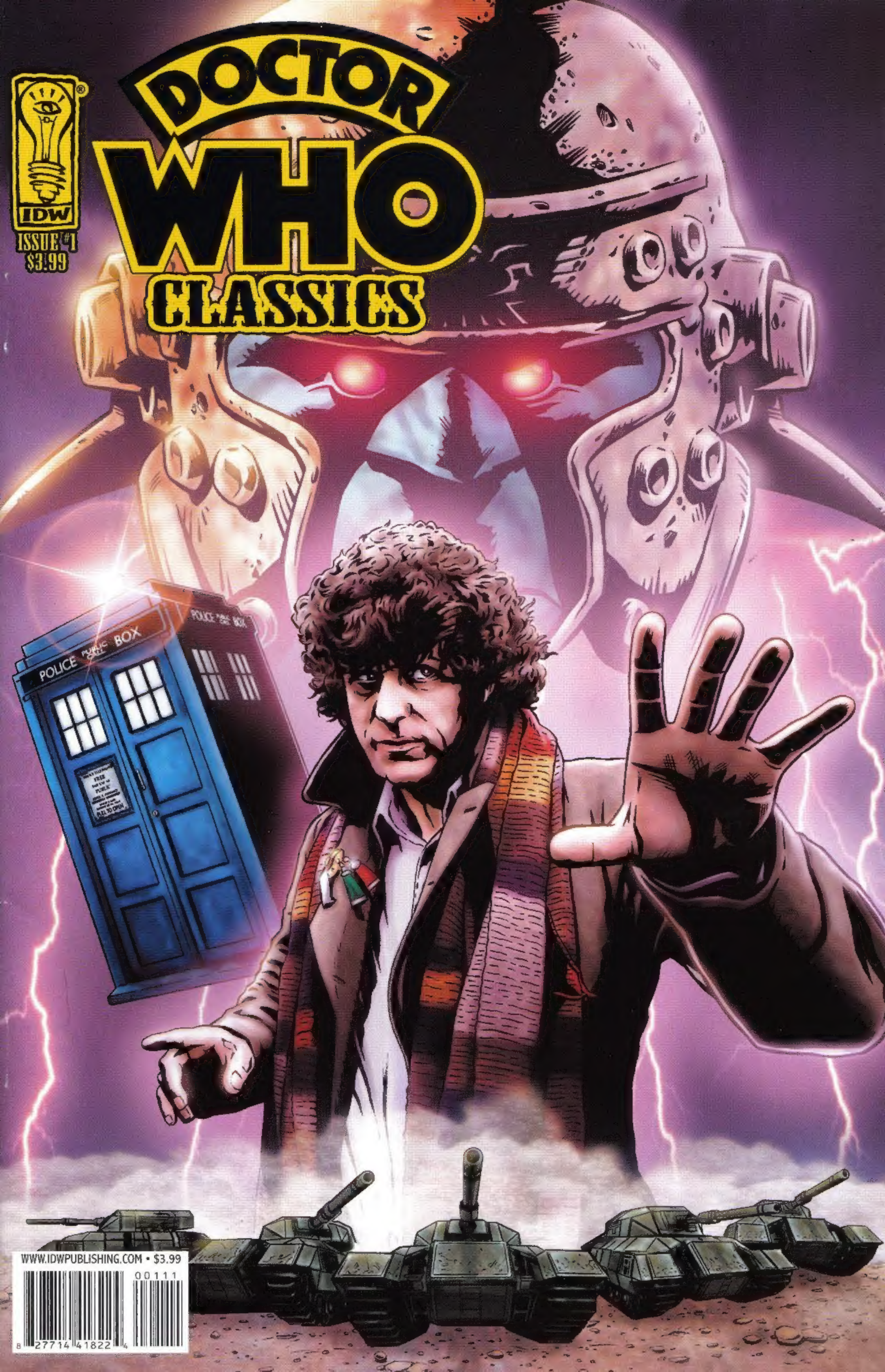
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DOCTOR WHO CLASSICS
PRESENTS

DOCTOR WHO
AND THE IRON LEGION
CHAPTER ONE

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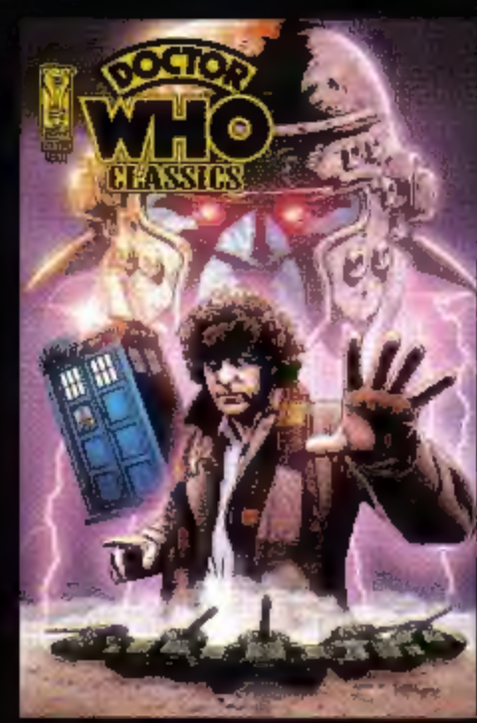

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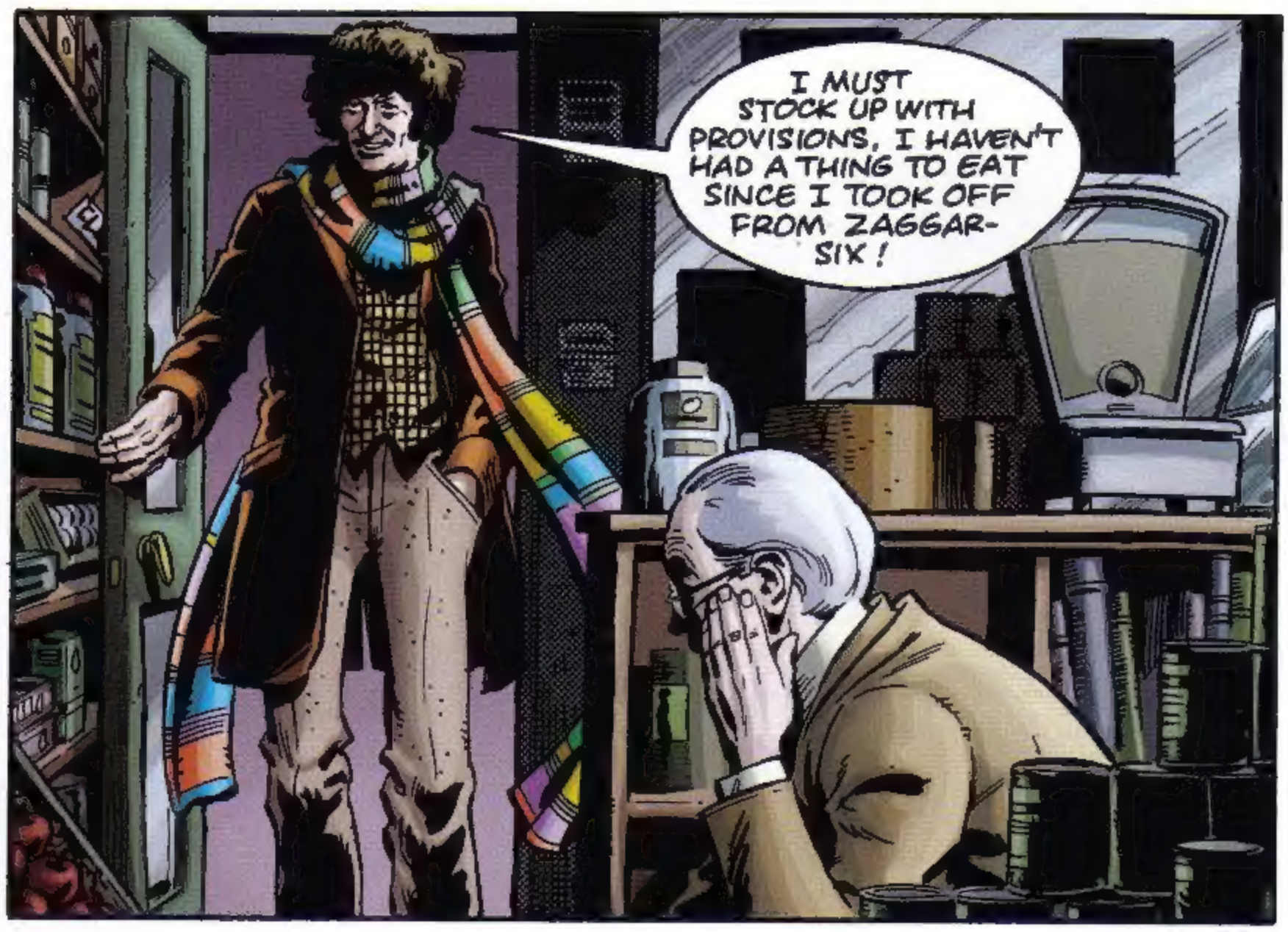
DOCTOR WHO
AND THE IRON LEGION
THEY FOUGHT THEIR WAY ACROSS A THOUSAND PLANETS --ROBOT VETERANS OF THE ETERNAL WAR--DESTROYING, WITH RUTHLESS DISCIPLINE, ALL WHO STOOD IN THEIR WAY!
AND NOW, THE PEACEFUL TRANQUILITY OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE IS RUDELY SHATTERED AS THEY APPEAR--AS IF FROM NOWHERE--BRUTALLY DRAGGING PEOPLE OUT AND RAZING THEIR HOUSES TO THE GROUND!
AND YET... FOR ALL THE ROBOTS' STRANGENESS, THERE IS SOMETHING... GRIMLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THEM!
WRITERS: MILLS+WAGNER / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: DEZ SKINN

THE DOCTOR'S TARDIS LANDS ON THE OUT-SKIRTS OF A VILLAGE--
J.GRUDD
GENER STOR


I MUST STOCK UP WITH PROVISIONS, I HAVEN'T HAD A THING TO EAT SINCE I TOOK OFF FROM ZAGGAR-SIX!

JELLY BABIES, TOO ...OH, HELLO! I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU ACCEPT ZAGGAN POUND NOTES...?
THEY'RE A LITTLE ON THE SLIMY SIDE, BUT ABSOLUTELY INFLATION-PROOF!
JELLY BABIES

THEY'RE COMING!

WE--WE TRIED TO RUN...BUT THEY'D SURROUNDED THE AREA! I--I CAME BACK HERE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO!
WHO...? WHO ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

OH, NO-- LOOK!
SONAR DETECTS THREE HUMANS WITHIN++ WILL PROCEED TO ENTER+++

CLOSED
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CARE FOR A JELLY-BABY?
NO!
REMAIN WHERE YOU ARE, HUMAN+++

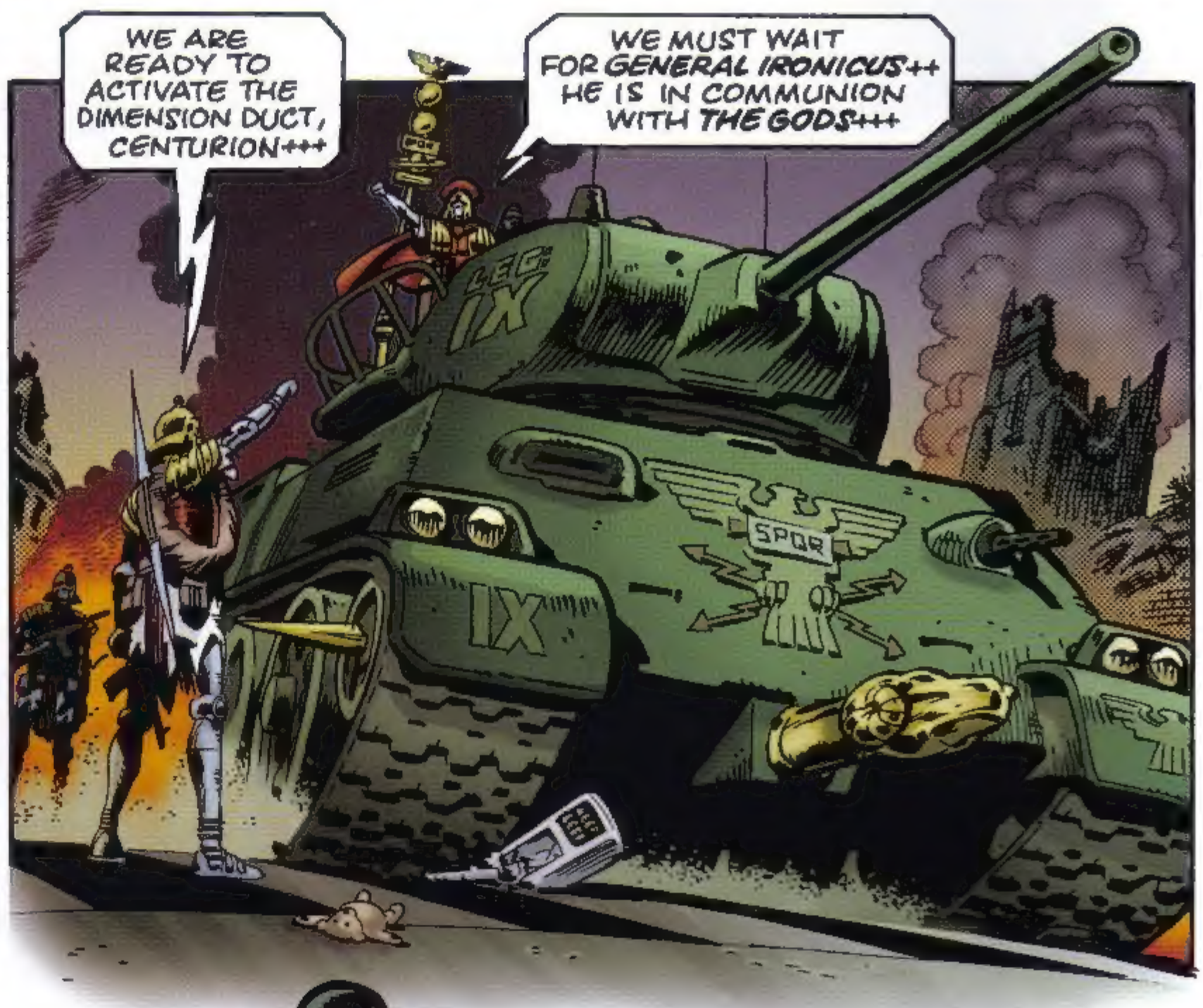
YOU KILLED THE OLD MAN -- IN COLD BLOOD!
SONAR NOW DETECTS TWO HUMANS LEFT ALIVE++ INFRA-RED VISION REVEALS ONLY ONE++ CHECK DATA+++

GIVE ME THAT GUN!
GET BACK-- OR I FIRE+++

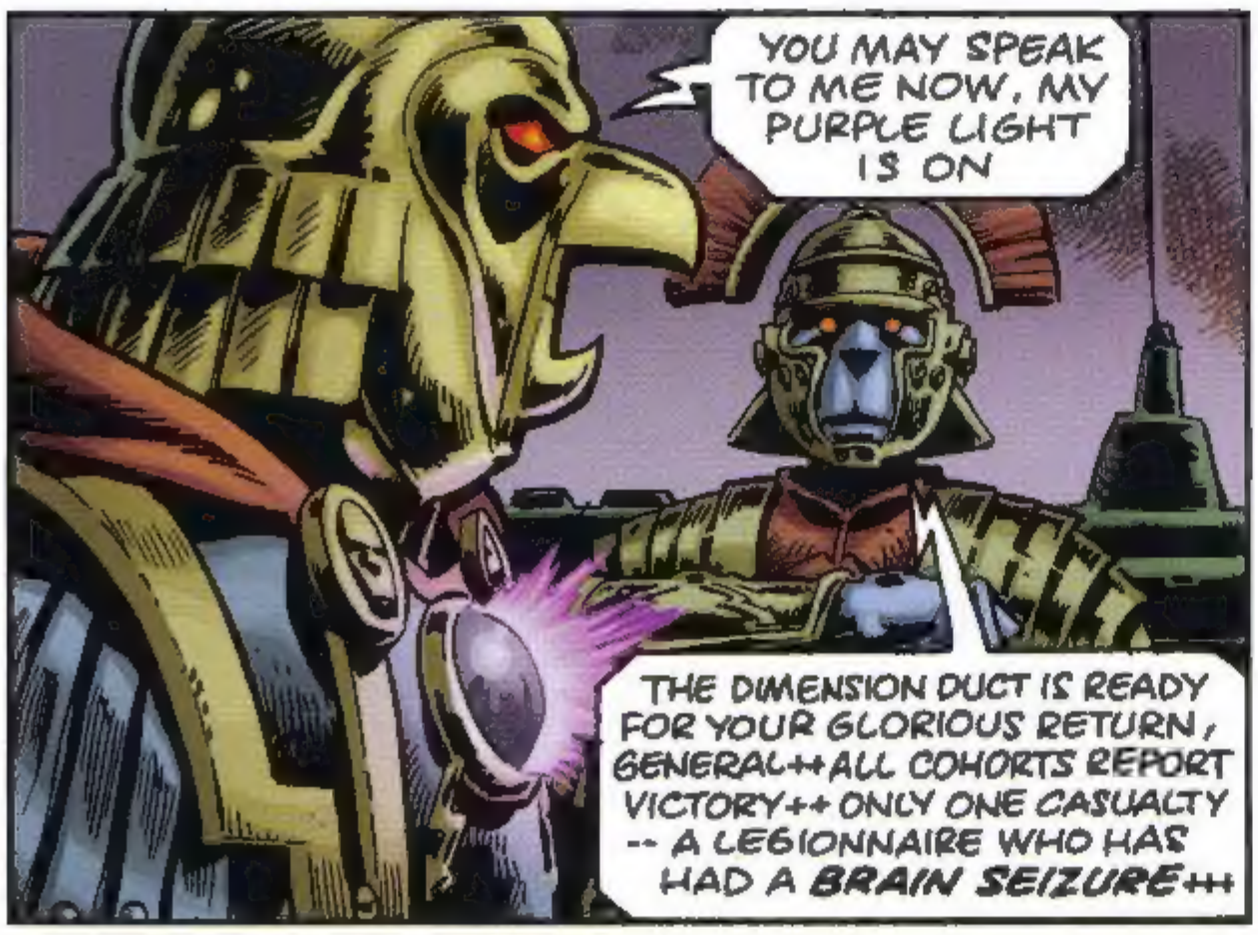
THE DOCTOR'S TWO HEARTS CONFUSE THE ROBOT...
SONAR DETECTS TWO HEART BEATS++INFRA-RED REVEALS ONE HUMAN ++CONCLUSION:IMPOSSIBLE ++ MALFUNCTION++ IMPOSSIBLE+++
YES, I KNOW I'M IMPOSSIBLE! NOW HAND OVER THAT GUN!

TWO HUMANS++ ONE HUMAN++ MAL-FUNCTION++MUST DESTROY++ IM-POSSIBLE ++ SMASH+++
YES, YES, WE DON'T WANT ANY MORE OF THAT NONSENSE. LET'S GET YOUR HEAD OFF, SHALL WE? BEFORE YOU BLOW A FUSE!

ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING... "FIRST COHORT OF THE NINTH LEGION"!


WE ARE READY TO ACTIVATE THE DIMENSION DUCT, CENTURION+++
WE MUST WAIT FOR GENERAL IRONICUS++ HE IS IN COMMUNION WITH THE GODS+++
LEG IX
SPQR
IX

INSIDE THE BALLISTA...
OH, GODS... HOW I LOVE WAR. LET THERE NEVER BE AN END TO MY CONQUESTS. LET MY IRON LEGION MARCH FOR EVER. FOR ONLY THROUGH DESTRUCTION AM I ALIVE. AND WITHOUT DEATH, I AM A DEAD THING.
OH, GODS... LET THE ETERNAL WAR THAT HAS LASTED THROUGH THE MILLENNIA CONTINUE... UNTIL THE END OF TIME!
THE GODS HAVE LOOKED UPON WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, IRONICUS, AND FOUND IT... EVIL!
GO IN DARKNESS, MY SON.


YOU MAY SPEAK TO ME NOW, MY PURPLE LIGHT IS ON
THE DIMENSION DUCT IS READY FOR YOUR GLORIOUS RETURN, GENERAL++ALL COHORTS REPORT VICTORY++ ONLY ONE CASUALTY -- A LEGIONNAIRE WHO HAS HAD A BRAIN SEIZURE+++

AT THAT MOMENT, THE DOCTOR LEAVES THE SHOP...
AH..! ER, WELL, THAT WAS REALLY MY FAULT..!

YOU WILL COME WITH US+++

IN THAT CASE, I'LL JUST GET MY TRAVELLING HAT ...HERE-- YOU'D BETTER LOOK AFTER THIS!

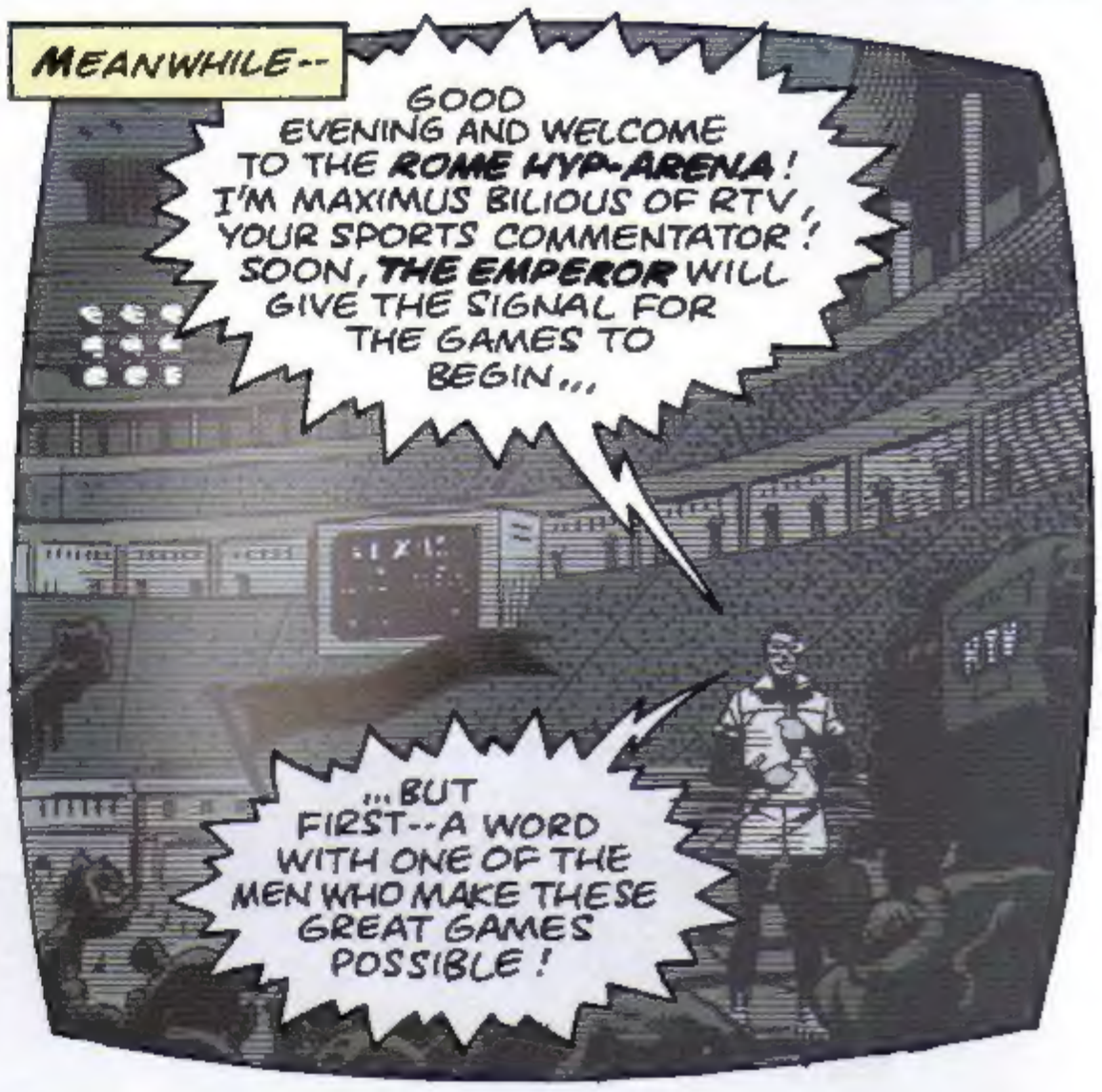
OPEN FIRE!

AAAAAHH!
NEXT WEEK: INTO THE DIMENSION DUCT!

Stan Lee presents

DOCTOR WHO AND THE IRON LEGION

THE DOCTOR HAS FALLEN FOUL OF *THE IRON LEGION* – STRANGE WAR ROBOTS, LED BY THE SINISTER *GENERAL IRONICUS*. HE MAKES A DASH FOR THE TARDIS AS ONE OF THE LEGIONS TANKS OPENS FIRE!



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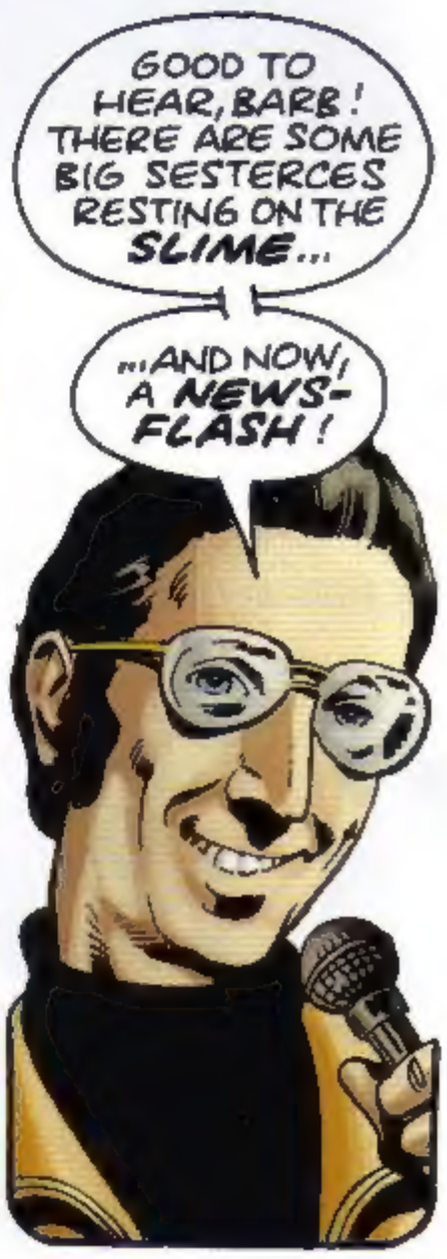


GENERAL IRONICUS AND HIS IRON LEGION ARE RETURNING IN TRIUMPH FROM THEIR LATEST CONQUESTS--THROUGH THE DIMENSION DUCT! THE CROWD ARE SURGING FORWARD TO SEE CAESAR'S RIGHT-HAND ROBOT!

NOW GENERAL IRONICUS HAS ENTERED THE ARENA AND IS TAKING HIS PLACE IN THE IMPERIAL BOX AND...YES.... YES...

I HEAR, CITIZENS, THAT THE EMPEROR IS READY TO ENTER...WE'RE TAKING YOU OVER THERE...

POLICE BOX

AND HERE HE COMES... THE EMPEROR ADOLPHUS CAESAR! RULER OF THE EARTH! MASTER OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM AND THE GALAXY BEYOND!

I AM THE EMPEROR ADOLPHUS AND I CAN DO WHAT I WANT!
OF COURSE YOU CAN, CHILD. BUT IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO OPEN THE GAMES!

OH, VERY WELL! I DECLARE THESE STUPID GAMES OPEN!
AVE, CAESAR! MORITURI TE SALUTANT!

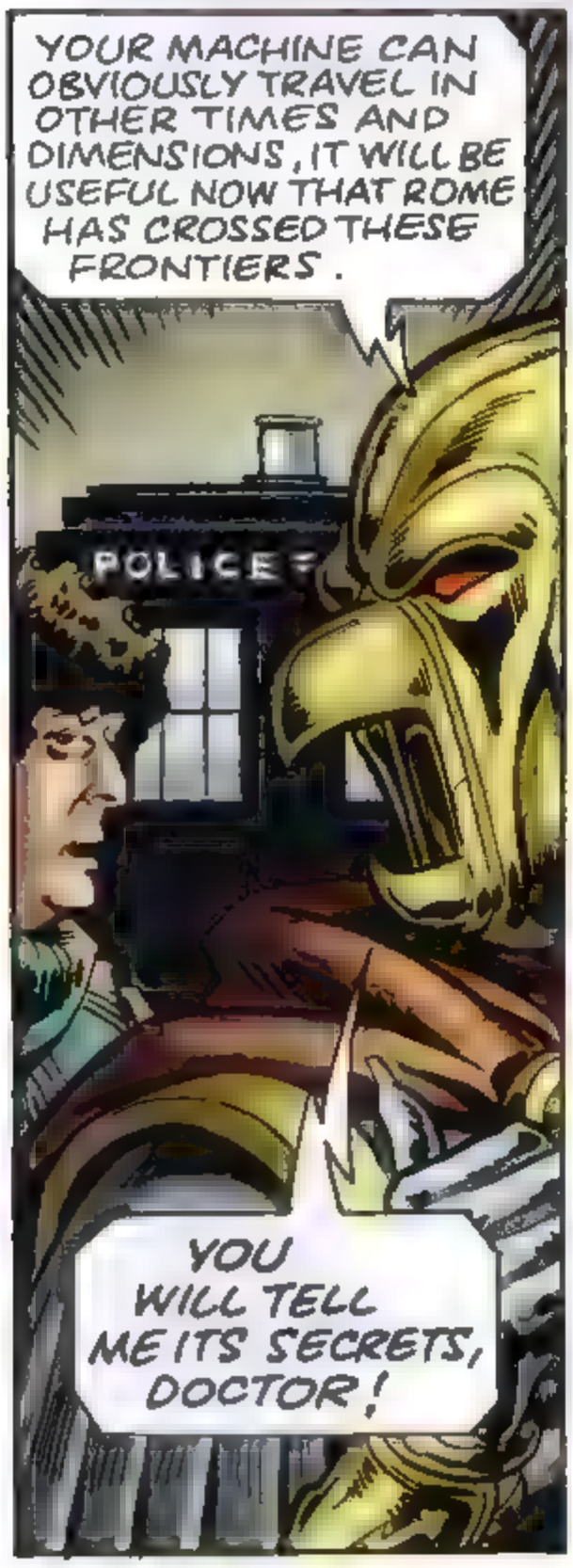
THE DOCTOR REALISES THE TRUTH--
AN ALTERNATIVE EARTH WHERE ROME NEVER FELL...! BUT, INSTEAD, DEVELOPED A SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY AND--WITH ITS ROBOT LEGIONS -- CONQUERED THE ENTIRE GALAXY!

IS IT NOT A PROUD ACHIEVEMENT, DOCTOR?
IT'S APPALLING! WHAT ON EARTH'S THE POINT? I MEAN...DON'T YOU FIND ALL THAT MARCHING AND CONQUERING RATHER BORING, GENERAL?

NO.

AND THE CARNAGE OF THE ARENA?
IT KEEPS THE MOB AMUSED!

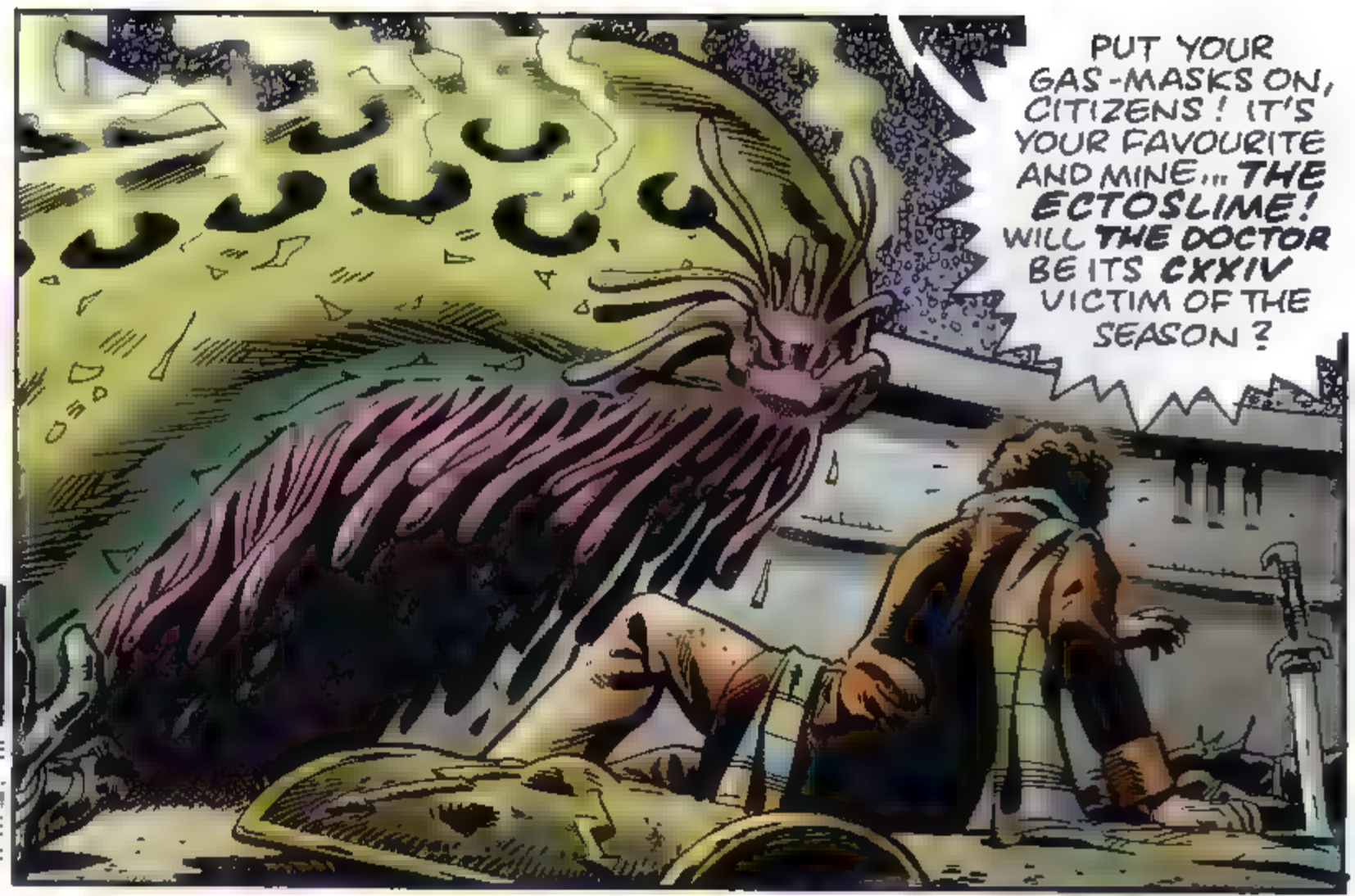
THE CROWD ARE AT FEVER-PITCH! AND, ANY MOMENT NOW, TONIGHT'S **STAR-TURN** ... **THE ECTOSLIME**, WILL APPEAR!



Stan Lee presents

DOCTOR WHO AND THE IRON LEGION

THE DOCTOR HAS DISCOVERED AN ALTERNATIVE EARTH WHERE THE ROMAN EMPIRE NEVER FELL . BUT WENT ON TO CONQUER THE ENTIRE GALAXY! AFTER REFUSING TO REVEAL THE SECRETS OF THE TARDIS TO THE SINISTER GENERAL IRONICUS, THE DOCTOR IS THROWN INTO THE ARENA .



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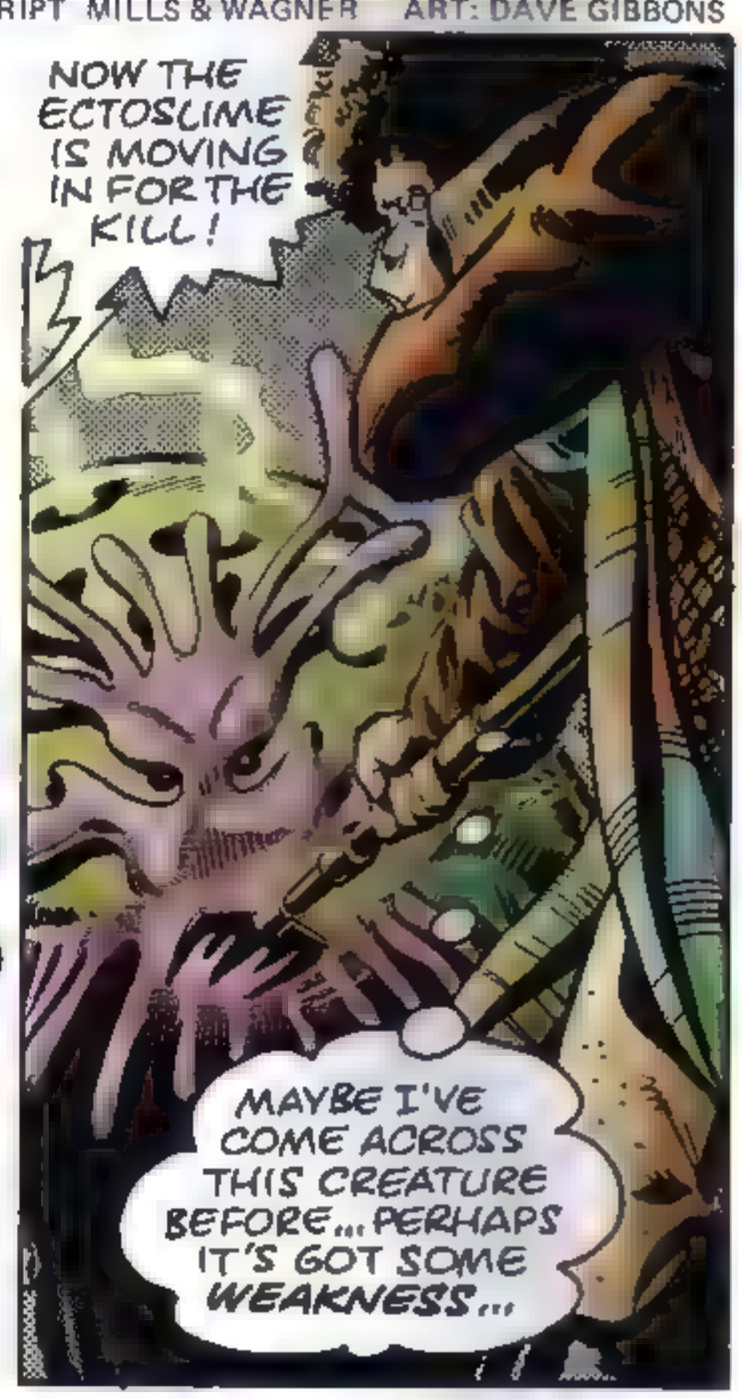
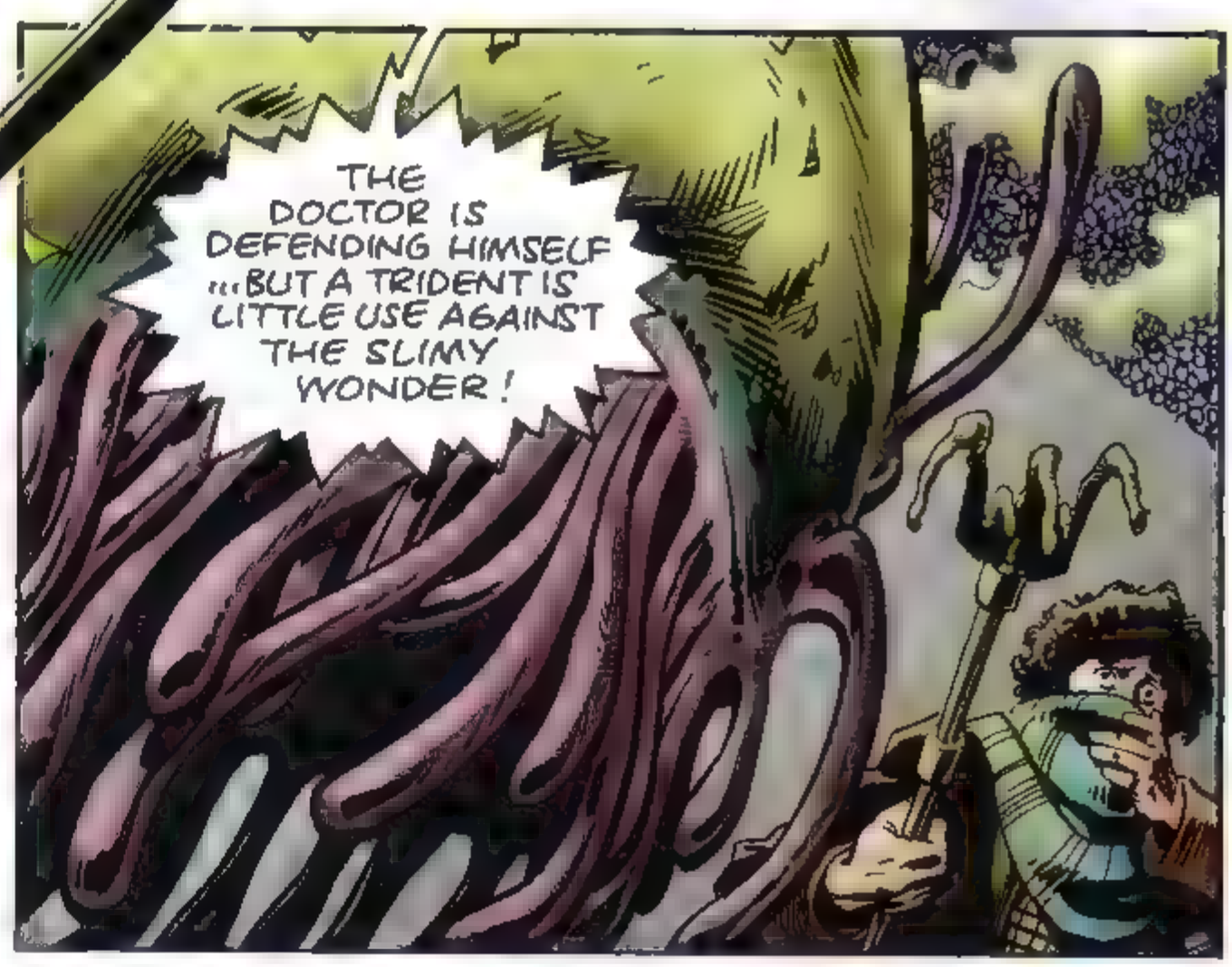
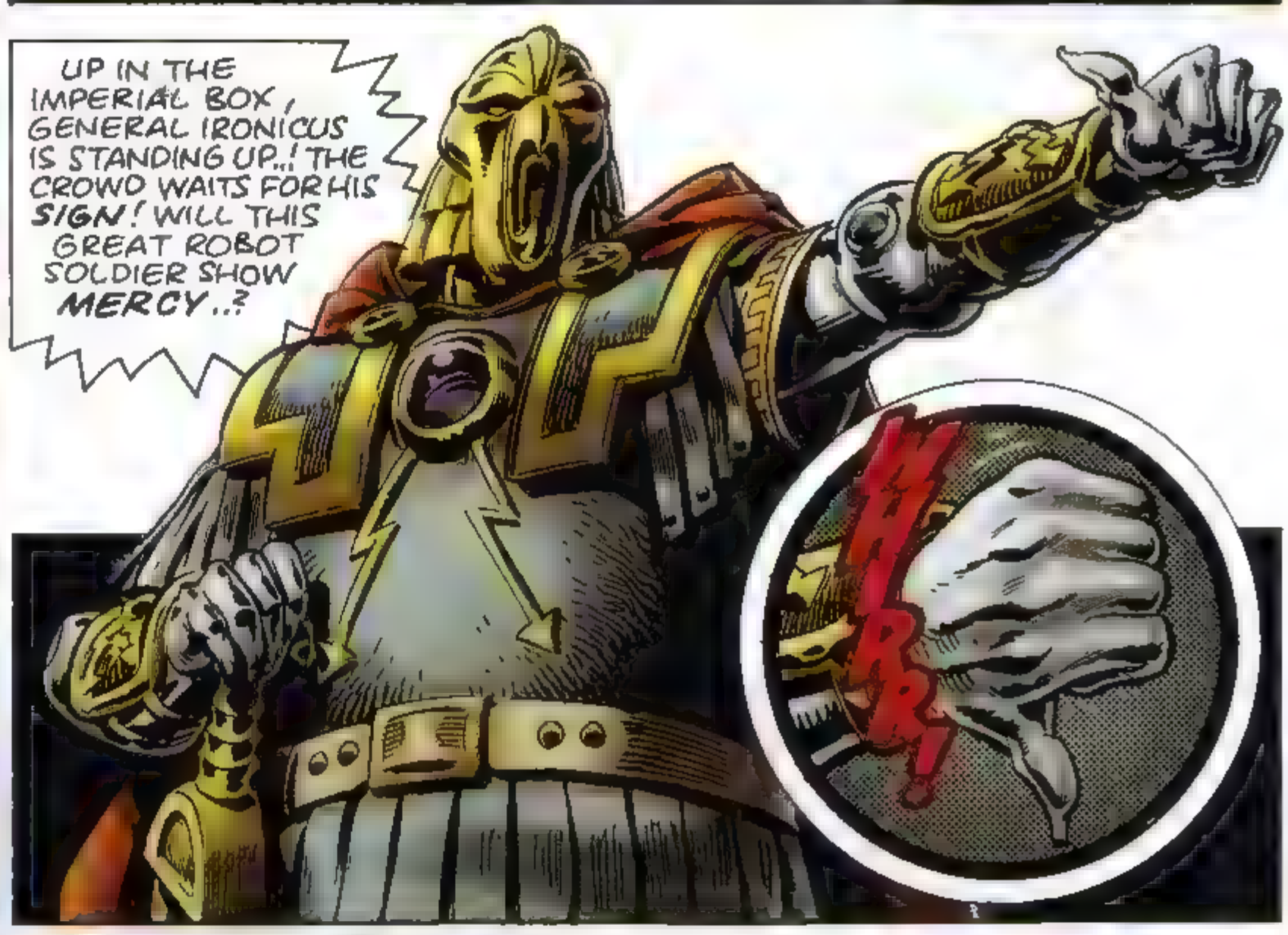




NOW THE DOCTOR IS ON THE GROUND! IT'S NEARLY OVER! THE CROWD ARE GOING CRAZY WITH EXCITEMENT!

ONLY GENERAL IRONICUS CAN STOP THE MONSTER FROM DELIVERING THE DEATH BLOW!
'DAEMONS... DALEKS...DINOSAURS...' AH, HERE WE ARE...'ECTO-SLIME--DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTIC...'


UP IN THE IMPERIAL BOX, GENERAL IRONICUS IS STANDING UP..! THE CROWD WAITS FOR HIS SIGN! WILL THIS GREAT ROBOT SOLDIER SHOW MERCY..?
HOW!

NO!... AND SO, ECCY CLAIMS ANOTHER VICTIM, AND...WAIT! SOMETHING STRANGE IS HAPPENING... THE DOCTOR IS SPEAKING TO THE ECTO$LIME IN AN ALIEN TONGUE AND THE MONSTER IS STARTING TO VIBRATE..!

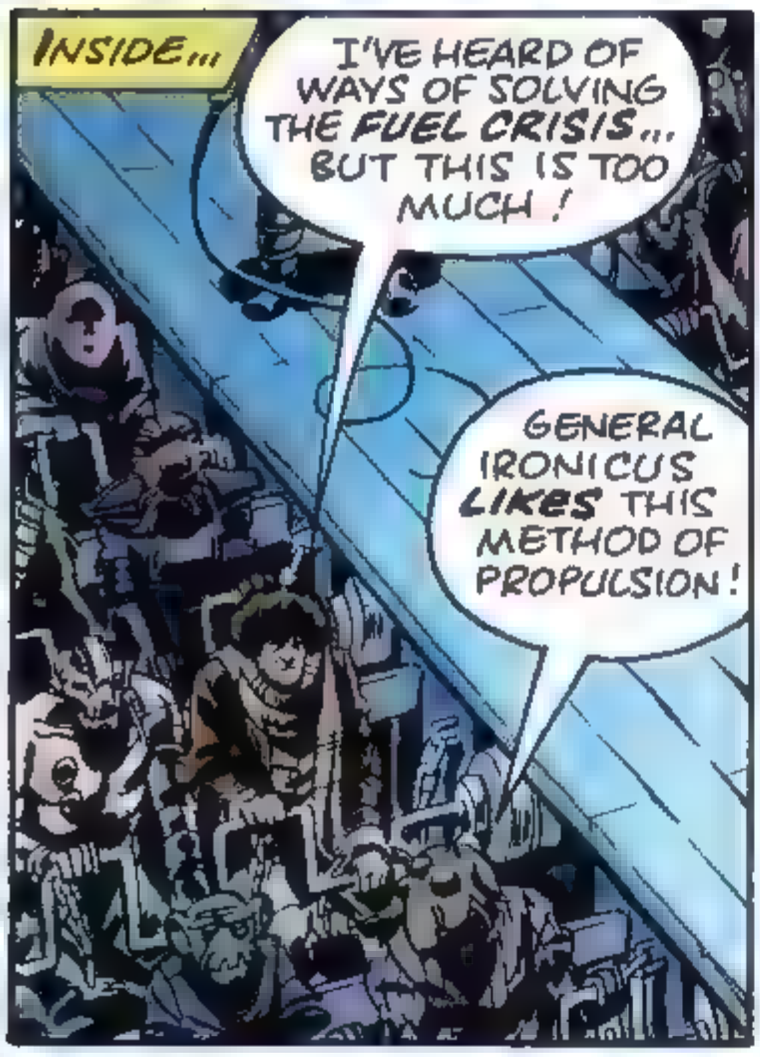
I'M SORRY HUMANS COULDN'T APPRECIATE IT... BUT IT WAS A VERY ALIEN JOKE!! THAT'S THE THING ABOUT ECTO-SLIME--THEY HAVE A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF HUMOUR...
...IT'S NATURE'S WAY OF MAKING UP FOR THEIR APPEARANCE!

BRING ME THE DOCTOR!

A SLAVE IN THE IMPERIAL AIR GALLEY!

ROW, PIGS! MAKE THOSE PROPELLERS... SPIN!

LATER, THE AIR GALLEY, WITH THE ROYAL FAMILY ON BOARD, SAILS OVER THE ETERNAL CITY--TOWARDS THE TEMPLE OF THE GODS...



COMPARED TO THE ECTOSLIME, YOU'RE ALMOST HANDSOME!
THAT GOOD! MORRIS LIKE!
I'M SO GLAD. AS WE'RE TO BE TRAVELLING COMPANIONS, MORRIS, PERHAPS I SHOULD INTRODUCE MYSELF. I'M THE DOCTOR.

MORRIS KNOW LOT OF DOCTORS! THEY GO PATCH ME UP WHEN I TRY ESCAPE. I TRY MANY, MANY TIMES. AND EVERY TIME I TRY...
...I HURT MYSELF!

THE ROYAL FAMILY PASSED DOWN THE GANGWAY...
PUT YOUR BACKS INTO IT, SCUM! CAESAR WANTS TO FLY FASTER THAN THE EAGLES!
CAESAR'S MOTHER... THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER...

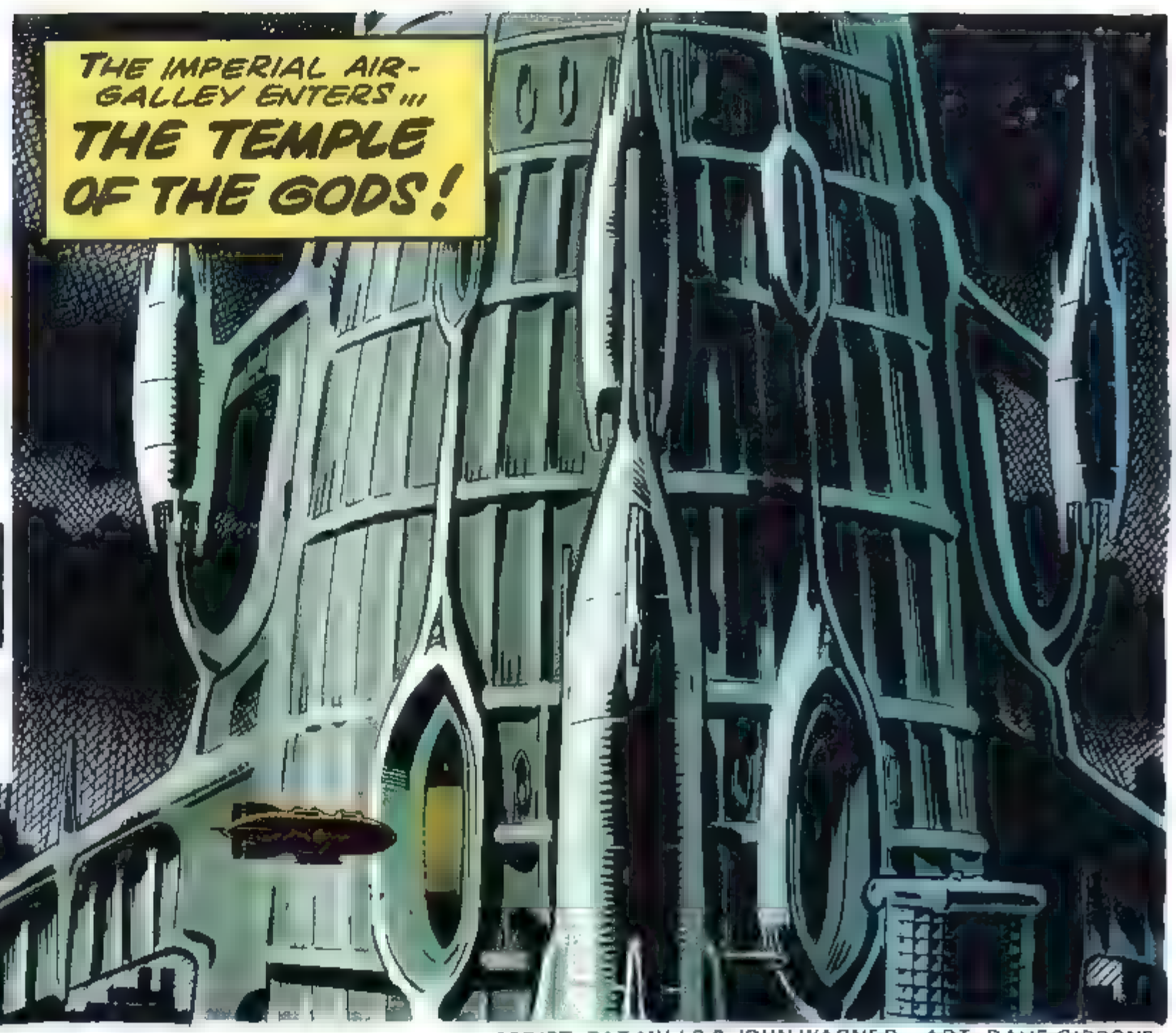
WHAT UP, DOC...?
I'M NOT SURE, MORRIS. FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF SOMETHING... TERRIBLE! IF I'M RIGHT, THEN...

I'VE DISCOVERED THE HORRIFYING SECRET OF THE GALACTIC ROMAN EMPIRE!
NEXT WEEK: TEMPLE OF THE GODS!

Stan Lee presents

DOCTOR WHO AND THE IRON LEGION

THE DOCTOR HAS DISCOVERED AN ALTERNATIVE EARTH WHERE THE ROMAN EMPIRE NEVER FELL... BUT WENT ON TO CONQUER THE GALAXY! AFTER ESCAPING DEATH IN THE ARENA, HE IS SENT TO THE IMPERIAL AIR GALLEY BY THE SINISTER GENERAL IRONICUS



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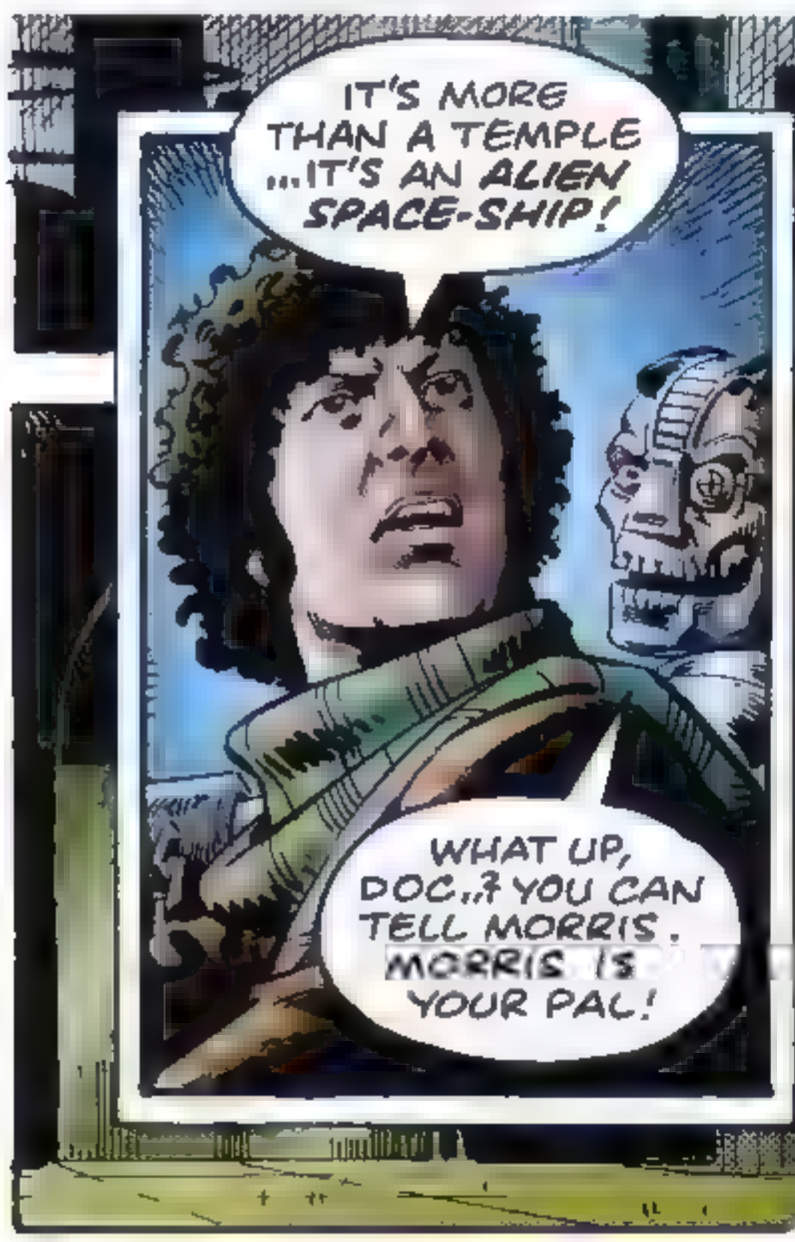
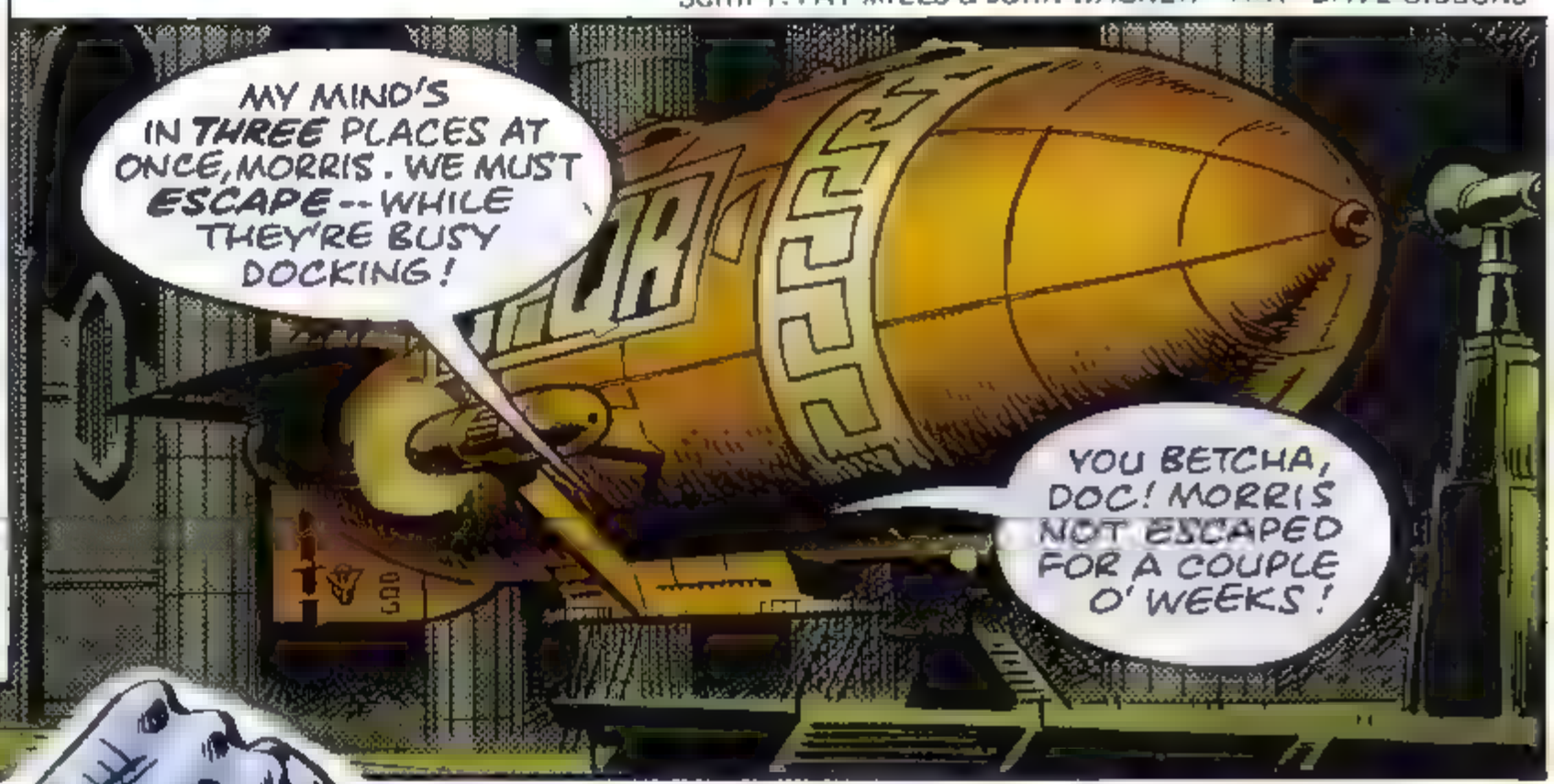
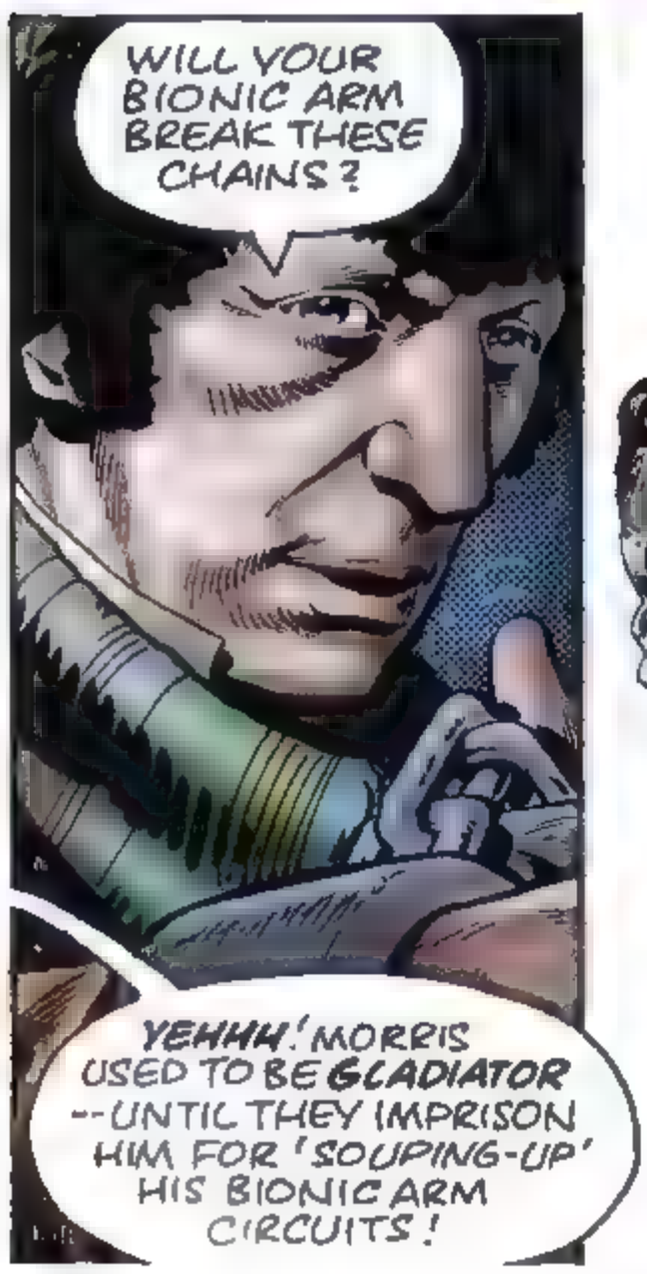






...UGLY WID OVER-SEER!

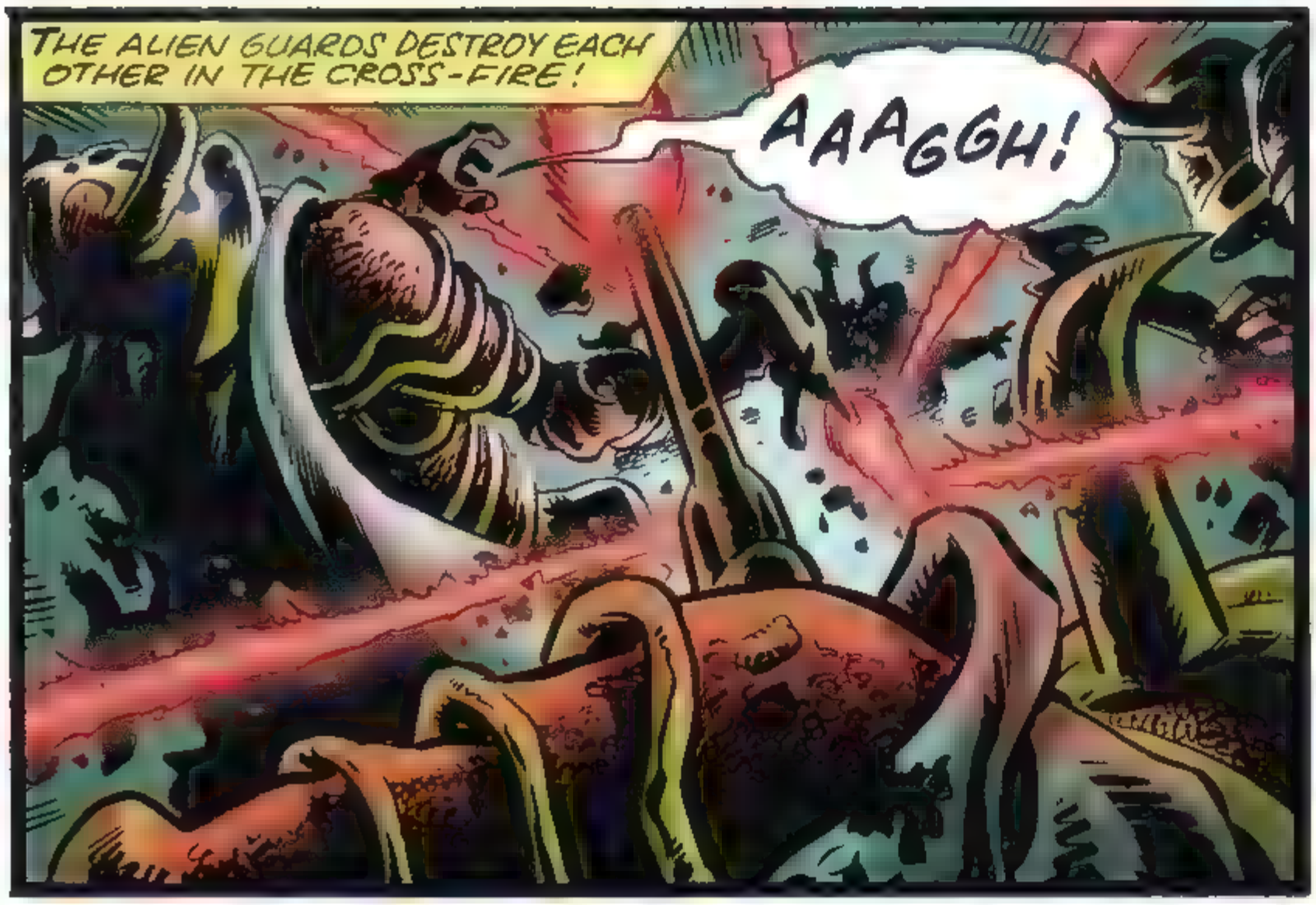
COME ON!

LOOK OUT, DOC..! BELOW US --THE ALIEN GUARD! PROTECTORS OF THE TEMPLE!

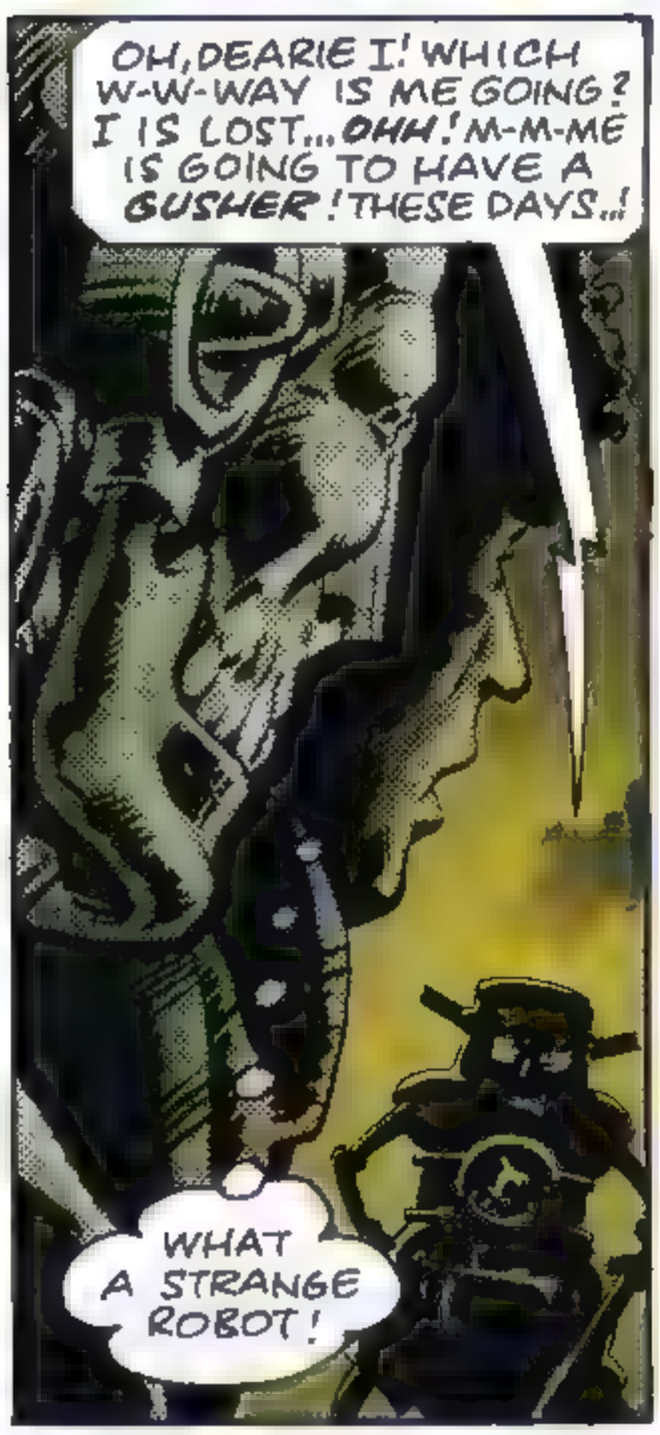
KEEP GOING... THEY WON'T FIRE FOR FEAR OF HITTING THE IMPERIAL AIR GALLEY!

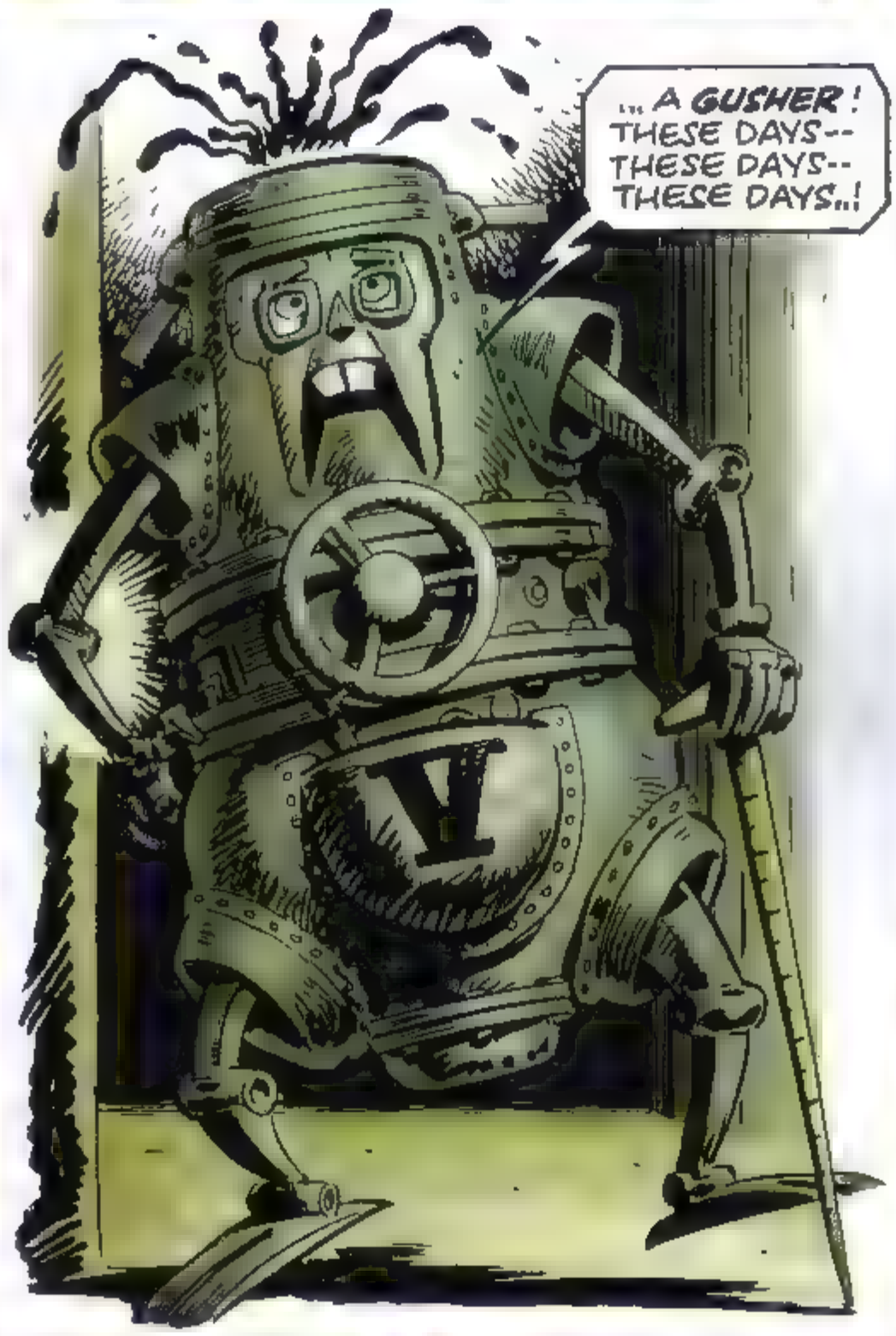
NOW-- SHOOT...! SHOOT TO KILL!
MORE ALIEN GUARDS UP AHEAD...

DOWN!

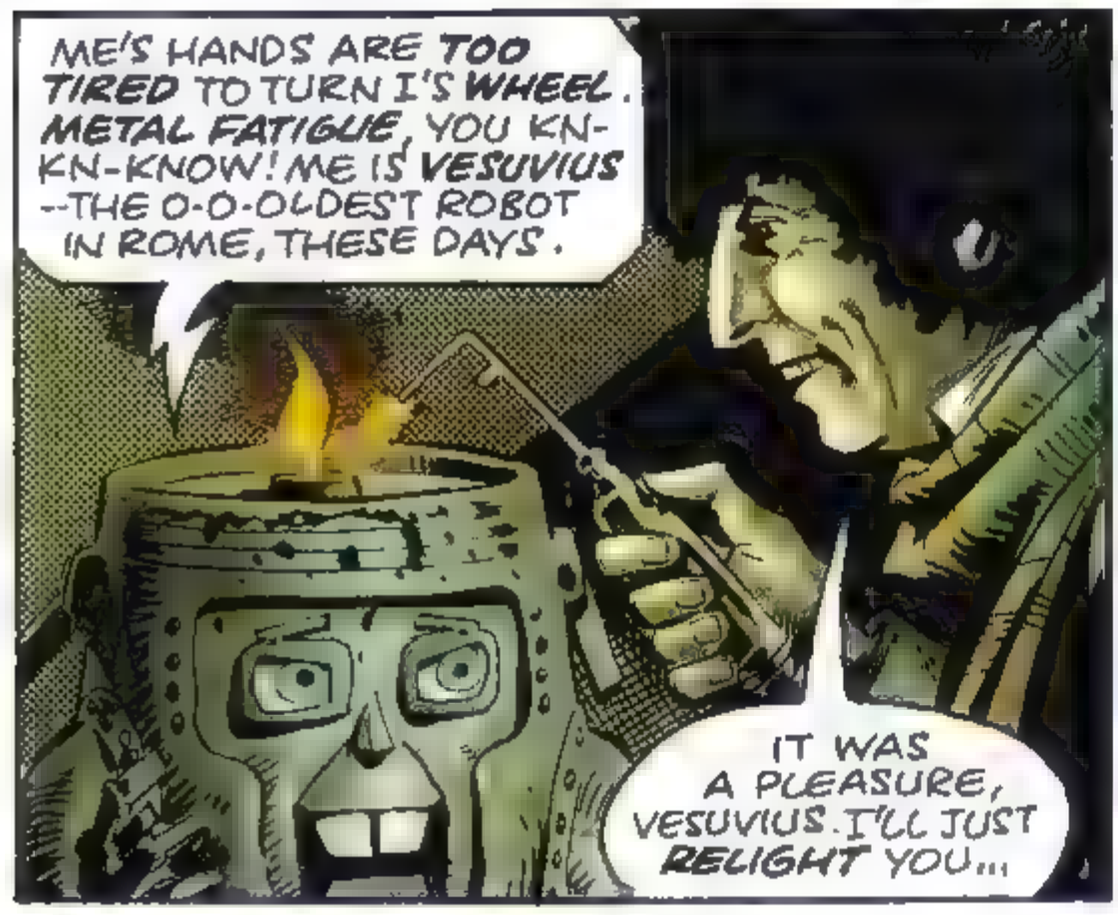

THE ALIEN GUARDS DESTROY EACH OTHER IN THE CROSS-FIRE!
AAAGGH!

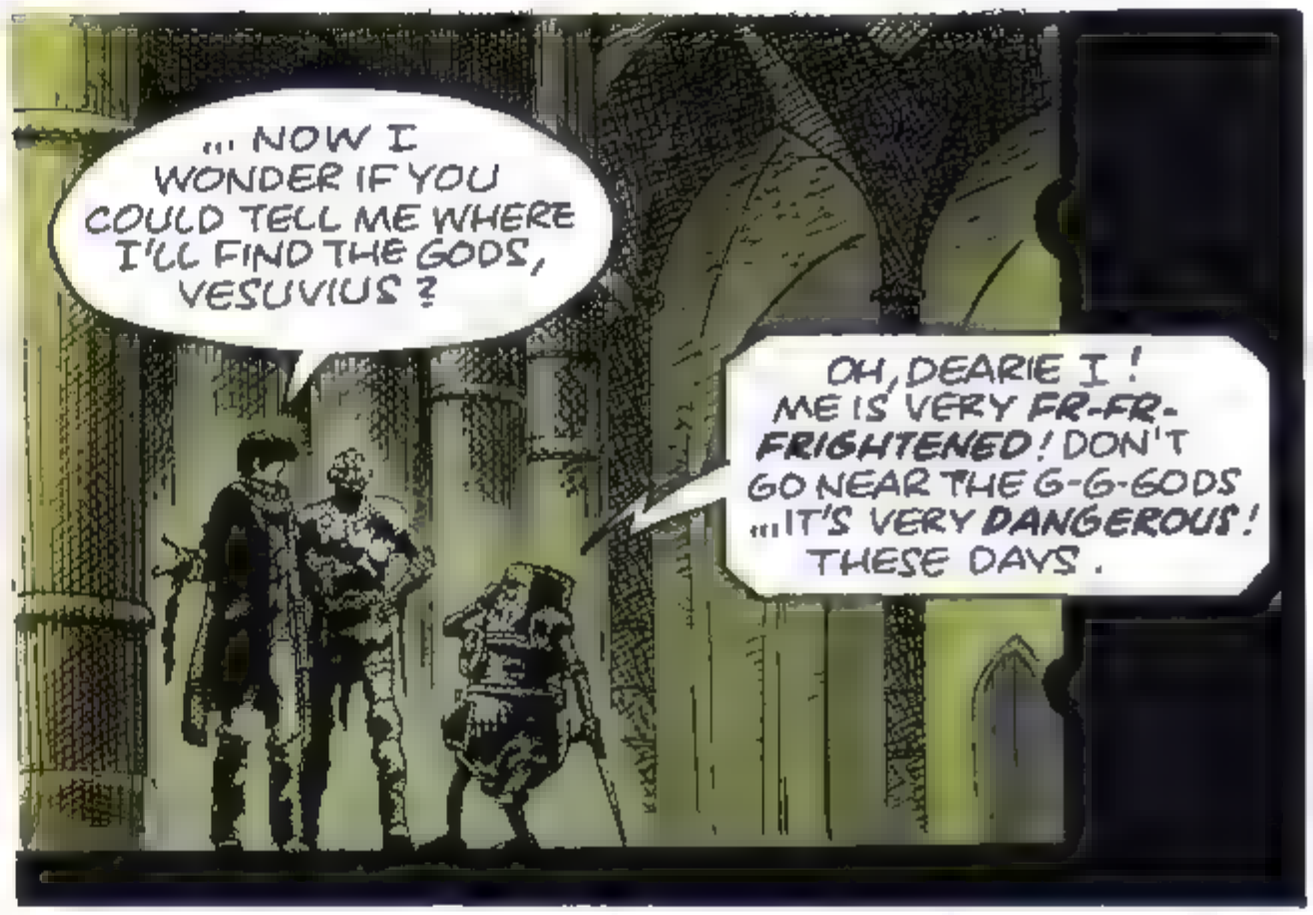
NOW WE GET AWAY, DOC..?
NO--I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT IS ... HOLD IT! SOMEONE'S COMING!


OH, DEARIE I! WHICH W-W-WAY IS ME GOING? I IS LOST... OHH! M-M-ME IS GOING TO HAVE A GUSHER! THESE DAYS..!
WHAT A STRANGE ROBOT!


... A GUSHER! THESE DAYS-- THESE DAYS-- THESE DAYS..!

LET ME HELP. THIS WHEEL IS A PRESSURE CONTROL, ISN'T IT?
THESE DAYS! OH, TH-TH-THANK YOU, KIND SIR! OH, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW GOOD THAT FEELS... MM! THE RELIEF!


ME'S HANDS ARE TOO TIRED TO TURN I'S WHEEL. METAL FATIGUE, YOU KN-KN-KNOW! ME IS VESUVIUS --THE O-O-OLDEST ROBOT IN ROME, THESE DAYS.
IT WAS A PLEASURE, VESUVIUS. I'LL JUST RELIGHT YOU...


... NOW I WONDER IF YOU COULD TELL ME WHERE I'LL FIND THE GODS, VESUVIUS?
OH, DEARIE I! ME IS VERY FR-FR-FRIGHTENED! DON'T GO NEAR THE G-G-GODS ...IT'S VERY DANGEROUS! THESE DAYS.

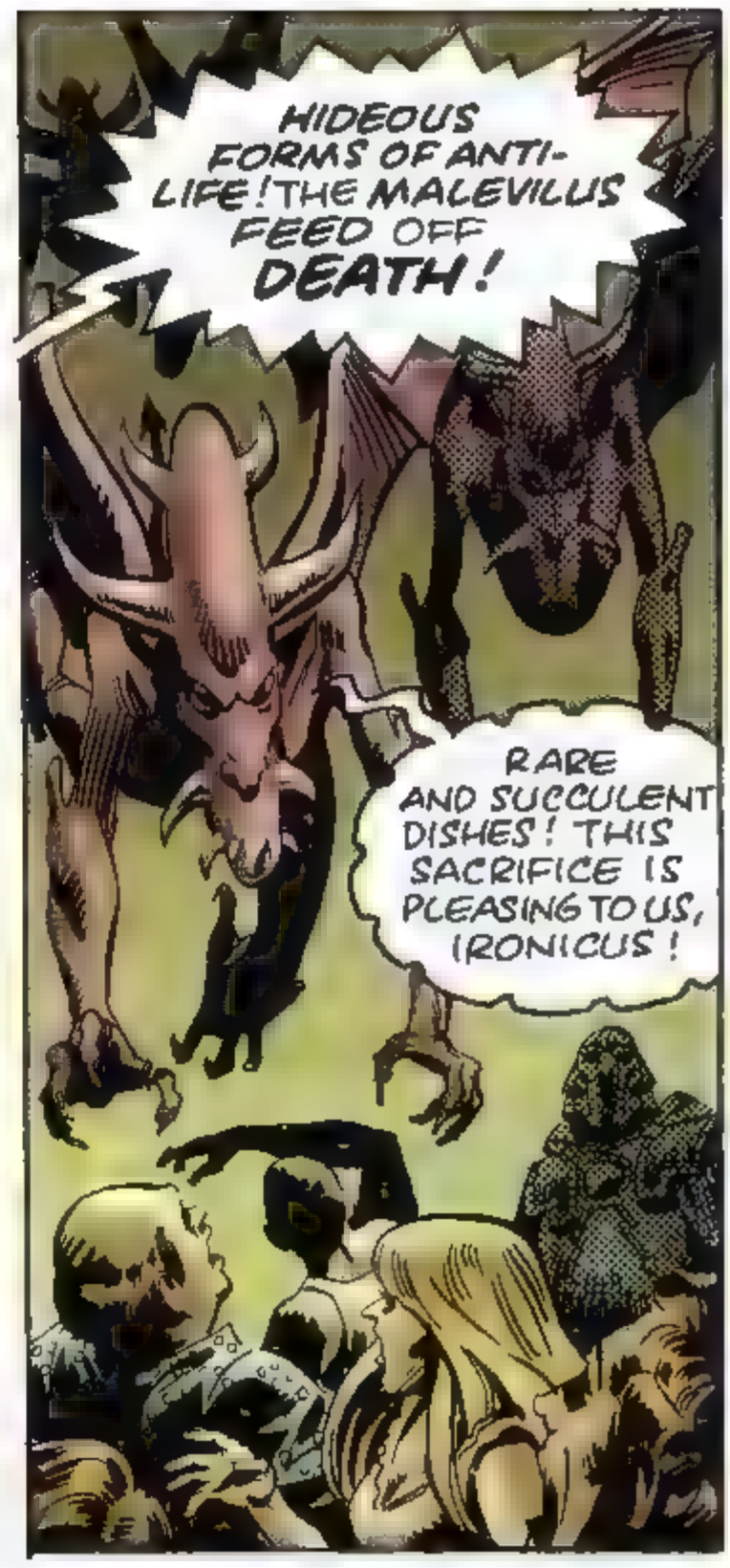
BUT I MUST! I'VE GOT TO KNOW THE TRUTH!
A-A-ALL RIGHT-- FOLLOW I... BUT BE CAREFUL. G-G-GODS DO WICKED THINGS. ME MIGHT HAVE ANOTHER GUSHER! THESE DAYS.
OH, DEARIE I... L-L-LOOK!
OH, GODS... THOU KNOWEST HOW I LOVE THEE, FOR THOU BRINGEST ME WHAT I LIKE BEST... WAR! IN THIS YEAR MMMXXI R.I.*, I HUMBLY THANK THEE FOR THE ETERNAL WAR AND EMPIRE WITHOUT END!
* REGENCY OF IRONICUS.

POOH! GODS NOT FRIGHTEN MORRIS. THEY JUST STATUES
WAIT...
...THE STATUES ARE STARTING TO MOVE!
I PRAYED IT WASN'T TRUE, BUT-- IT'S AS I FEARED! THE MALEVILUS! MOST TERRIBLE OF ALIEN RACES...
...THEY ARE THE GODS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!
NEXT ISSUE:
AGAINST THE GODS!

Stan Lee presents
DOCTOR WHO
AND THE IRON LEGION
PART FIVE : AGAINST THE GODS!
THE DOCTOR HAS DISCOVERED AN ALTERNATIVE EARTH WHERE ROME NEVER FELL BUT WENT ON TO CONQUER THE GALAXY. NOW THE DOCTOR FINDS HIMSELF IN THE TEMPLE OF THE GODS--AN ALIEN SPACE-SHIP--AND REALISES ...THE HORRIBLE TRUTH ABOUT THE EMPIRE OF THE CAESARS!
GENERAL IRONICUS, ROBOT LEADER. HIS IRON LEGIONS HAVE CONQUERED THE GALAXY.
THE SPOILT EMPEROR ADOLPHUS AND HIS MOTHER, JUNO...THE DOCTOR SUSPECTS HER OF BEING ONE OF THE ALIENS.
MORRIS, EX-GALLEY SLAVE AND GLADIATOR ...WITH VESUVIUS, THE OLDEST ROBOT IN ROME--THE DOCTOR'S COMRADES.
THE MALEVILUS! MOST TERRIBLE OF ALIEN RACES...THEY ARE THE GODS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE!
OH GODS...NOW THAT ROME HAS GONE ON TO CONQUER ALL DIMENSIONS, I OFFER YOU THESE HUMANS ...THE FIRST FRUITS OF VICTORY!
WRITERS=MILLS+WAGNER / ARTIST=DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR=DEZ SKINN

COME, ADOLPHUS--WE MUST GO. FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT INITIATED, THE SIGHT OF THE GODS FEASTING MAY BE A LITTLE DISTURBING
AWW, MATER!

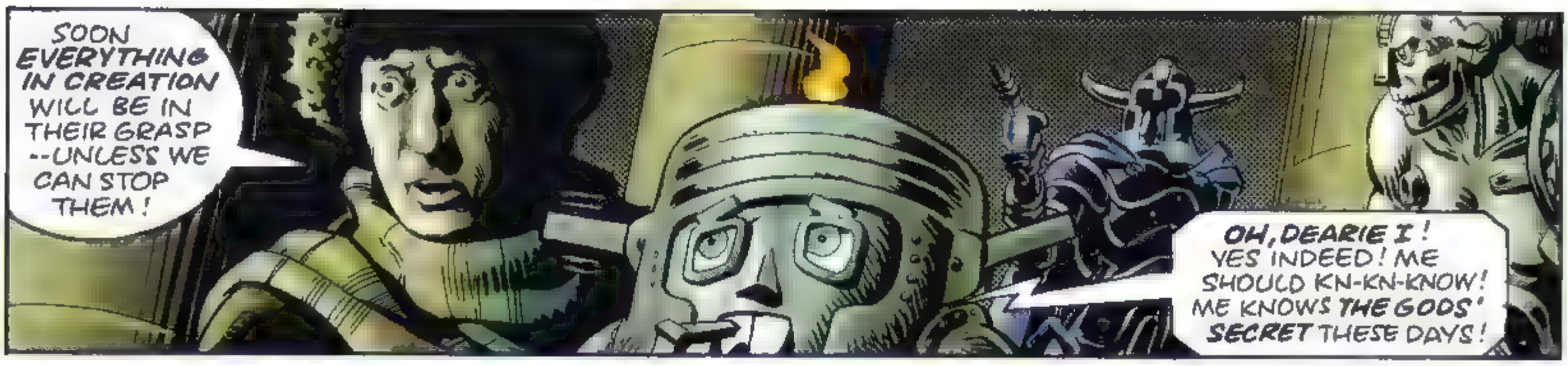
THE FIRST PRISONERS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS --THEY'RE GOING TO BE OFFERED IN THANKSGIVING TO THE GODS!
MORRIS NOT UNDERSTAND, DOC...WHO ARE THESE GODS?


HIDEOUS FORMS OF ANTI-LIFE! THE MALEVILUS FEED OFF DEATH!
RARE AND SUCCULENT DISHES! THIS SACRIFICE IS PLEASING TO US, IRONICUS!

THERE ARE FIVE...BABIYON...! ABISS...! EPOK...! NEKROS...! AND THE MOST FOUL OF ALL... MAGOG!
NOOOO! PLEASE!

THE MALEVILUS MUST HAVE CHOSEN ROME BECAUSE IT WAS SUCH A WAR-LIKE NATION...THEN THEY GAVE IT THE TECHNOLOGY TO EXPAND...MOULDING EVERY CONQUEST FOR THEIR OWN EVIL ENDS...!

AAAAHH!


SOON EVERYTHING IN CREATION WILL BE IN THEIR GRASP --UNLESS WE CAN STOP THEM!
OH, DEARIE I! YES INDEED! ME SHOULD KN-KN-KNOW! ME KNOWS THE GODS' SECRET THESE DAYS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, VESUVIUS? WHAT IS THE GODS' SECRET?
YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT! BACK AGAINST THAT PILLAR, BOTH OF YOU!

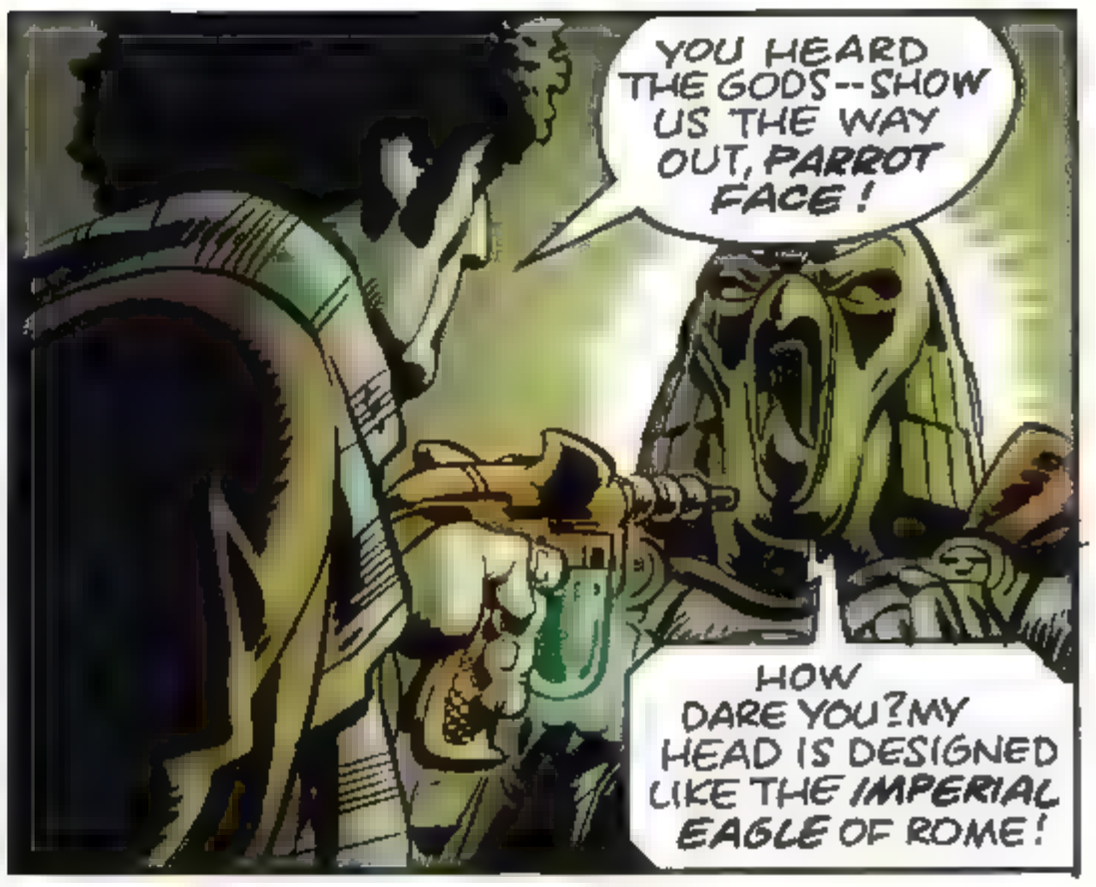
THE OLD HISTORIAN ROBOT, VESUVIUS! YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH CENTURIES AGO, BUT I CAN RECTIFY THAT--A QUICK SLUG FROM THE BACT-GUN...
OH, DEARIE I! NO! IT FIRES A M-M-METAL EATING VIRUS...
... AND YOU'LL RUST CLEAN AWUUUUGH!
MORRIS GET UGLY WID YOU!

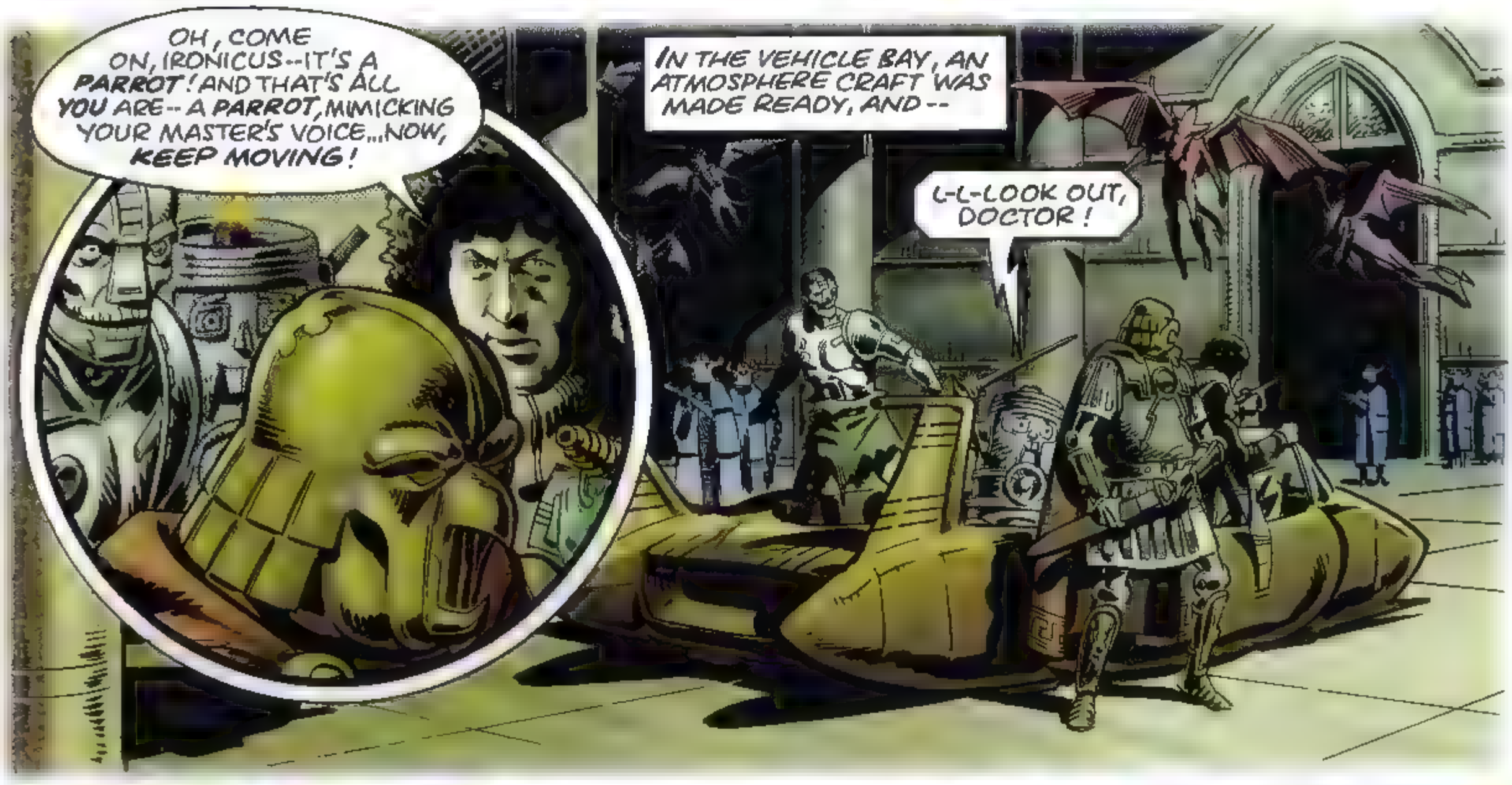
THE ESCAPED GALLEY SLAVES ...DESTROY THEM!

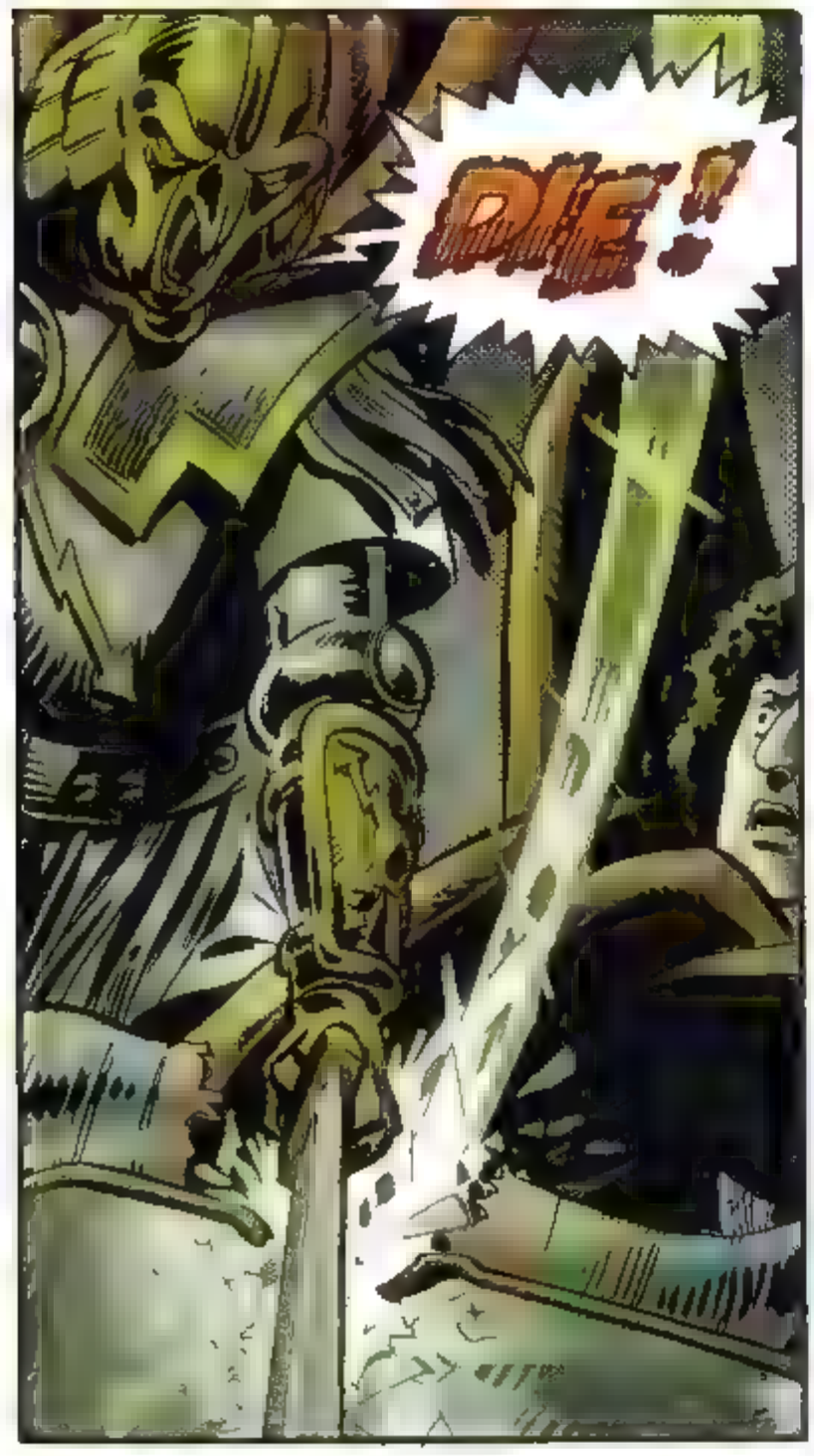
DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY, IRONICUS... I BELIEVE YOU KNOW WHAT THIS DEVICE IS...AND WHAT IT'LL GIVE A ROBOT LIKE YOU...

...ANTS IN YOUR PANTS!

WHAT DO WE CARE IF IRONICUS RUSTS TO DEATH, MAGOG? LET US FEED ON THE INSOLENT INTRUDERS!
YOUR BLOODLUST DOES YOU CREDIT, BABIYON, BUT CLOUDS YOUR JUDGEMENT! IRONICUS IS STILL USEFUL TO US... HE MUST DO AS THE INTRUDER SAYS...

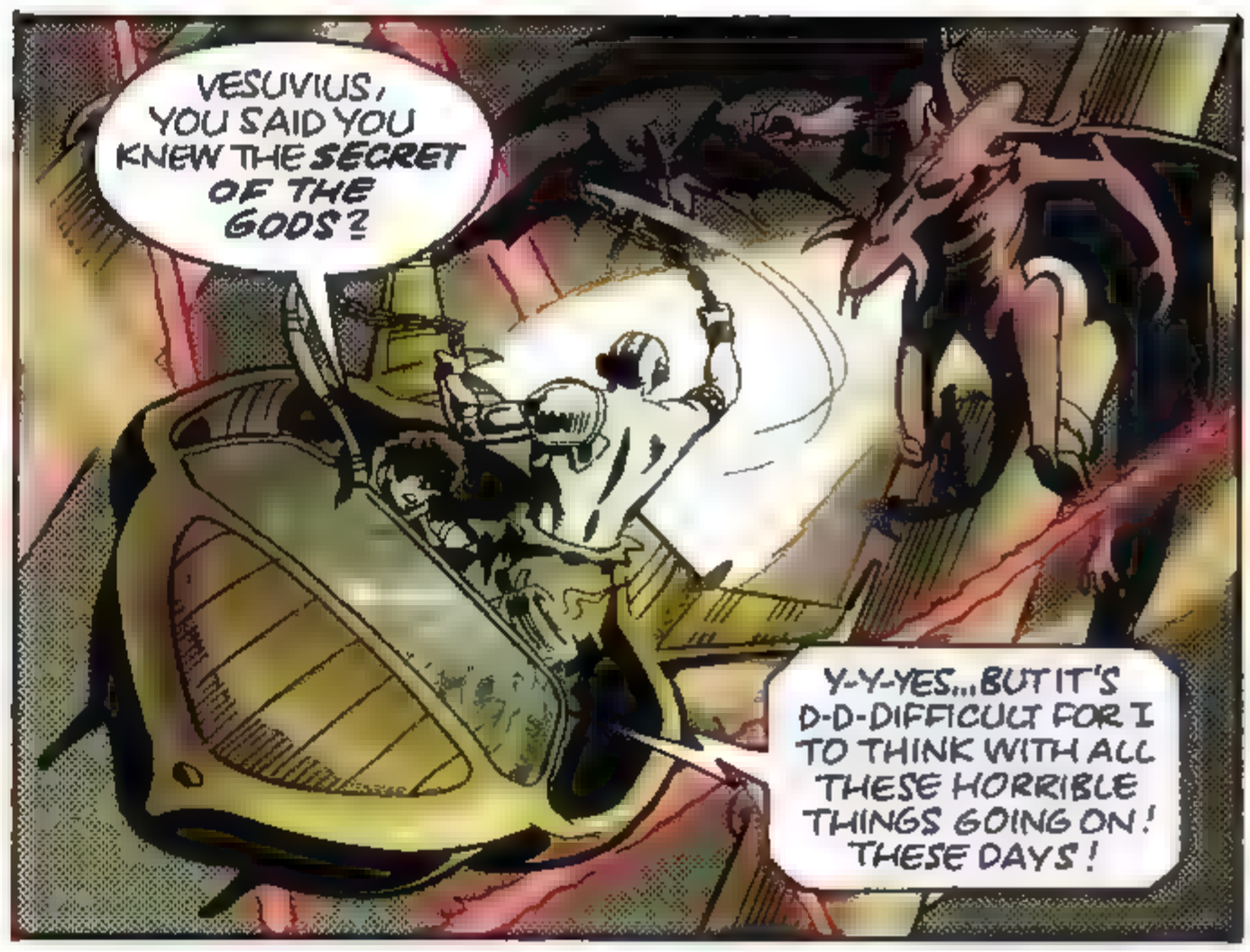

YOU HEARD THE GODS--SHOW US THE WAY OUT, PARROT FACE!
HOW DARE YOU? MY HEAD IS DESIGNED LIKE THE IMPERIAL EAGLE OF ROME!


OH, COME ON, IRONICUS--IT'S A PARROT! AND THAT'S ALL YOU ARE-- A PARROT, MIMICKING YOUR MASTER'S VOICE...NOW, KEEP MOVING!
IN THE VEHICLE BAY, AN ATMOSPHERE CRAFT WAS MADE READY, AND --
L-L-LOOK OUT, DOCTOR!


DIE!!

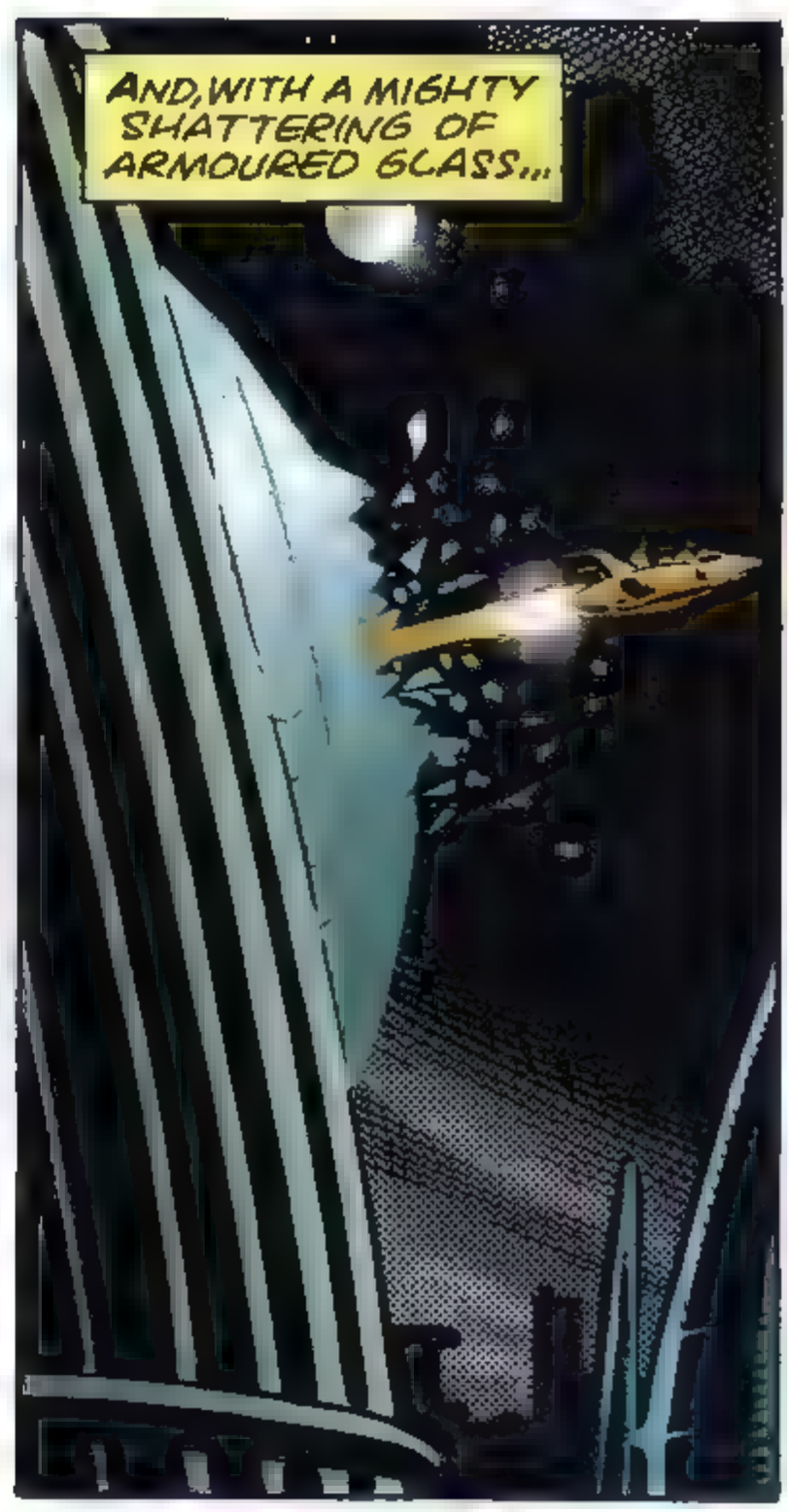
WITH A SUDDEN LURCH, THE AIR-CAR LIFTED OFF...
SEAL THE DOORS! THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE!
HOLD ON-- WE'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER WAY OUT!

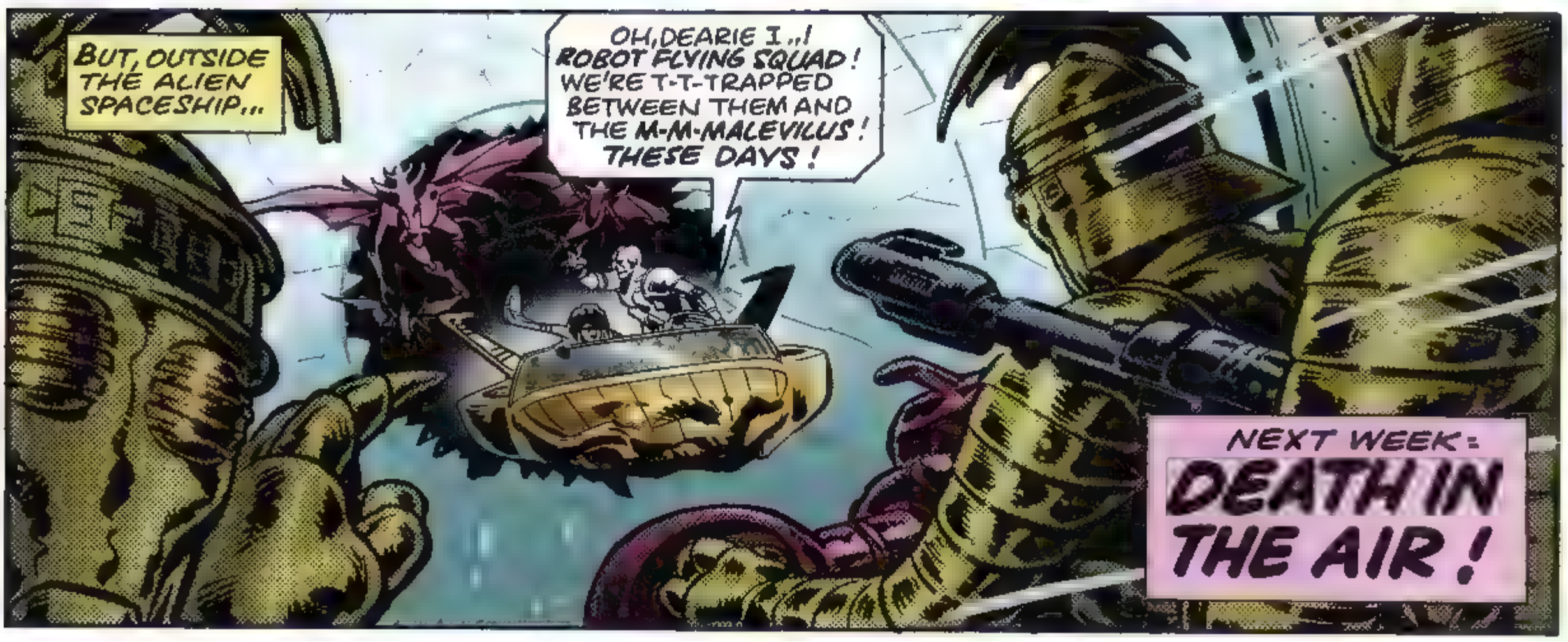
PRETTY POLLY! PRETTY POLLY! HURRR!


VESUVIUS, YOU SAID YOU KNEW THE SECRET OF THE GODS?
Y-Y-YES...BUT IT'S D-D-DIFFICULT FOR I TO THINK WITH ALL THESE HORRIBLE THINGS GOING ON! THESE DAYS!

IT'S VITAL YOU REMEMBER!
YEHHH! MORRIS HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE REMEMBERING... DOCTORS NOT FINISHED WITH MORRIS YET-- GOTTA DO MORE WORK... IN HERE!

OBSERVATION WINDOW-- IT'S OUR ONLY WAY OUT! IT'LL BE MADE TO STAND UP TO METEORITES, SO WE'LL NEED FULL POWER!


AND, WITH A MIGHTY SHATTERING OF ARMOURED GLASS...


BUT, OUTSIDE THE ALIEN SPACESHIP...
OH, DEARIE I..! ROBOT FLYING SQUAD! WE'RE T-T-TRAPPED BETWEEN THEM AND THE M-M-MALEVILUS! THESE DAYS!
NEXT WEEK: DEATH IN THE AIR!

CITY OF THE DAMNED

E ABOUT
VE ALL
D. THEY
ED.

SE AND ALARMING
T BE ALARMED.
BIDDEN.

DO NOT SMILE.
DO NOT LAUGH.
DO NOT CRY.
DO NOT CARE.
ABANDON HOPE.

NEXT MONTH IN ISSUE 2 OF

DOCTOR WHO CLASSICS

THE DOCTOR IS IN

The TARDIS lands at IDW Publishing with both new and classic Doctor Who series

Doctor Who has been one of the most enduring series of the BBC, the *Star Trek* of U.K. television, for well on four decades now. (The *Guinness Book of World Records* actually lists it as the longest-running sci-fi series in the world.) During that time, no less than ten different actors played the good Doctor, but American audiences became most familiar with the 1970s' fourth incarnation, portrayed by a classically scarved Tom Baker in episodes noted for their top-notch action, engrossing storytelling and—yes, let's admit it—wobbly sets and low-budget, robots-built-from-trash-bins special effects.

But when the Beeb launched a new series in 2005 with its tenth Doctor, played by David Tennant, fans were gifted not only with dynamic, high-grade CGI effects, but stories that stand out as among some of the best that the series has ever produced. The time seemed right for the Timelord to return to the pages of comics as well, and IDW Publishing recruited fan-favorite *Transformers* artist Nick Roche, along with TV story editor Gary Russell, author of the *Doctor Who Encyclopedia*, to bring new stories to the printed page.

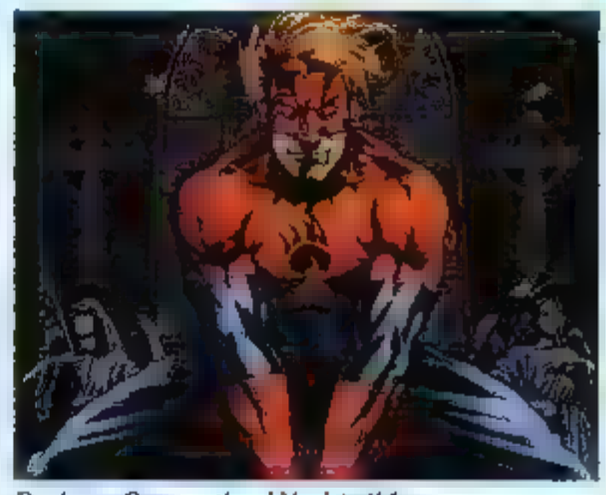
DECEMBER RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

30 Days of Night: Beyond Barrow #3
Angel: After the Fall #2
Badger Saves the World #1
Cory Doctorow's Futuristic Tales of the Here and Now: Craphound
Doctor Who Classics #1
Fallen Angel #22
Gene Simmons Dominatrix #5
Gene Simmons Zipper #2
Snaked #1
Star Trek Alien Spotlight: Orions
Star Trek: Year Four #6
Wormwood: Calamari Rising #1

The Transformers: Beast Wars: Sourcebook #3
The Transformers: Best of the UK: Dinobots #4
The Transformers: Devastation #4
The Transformers Magazine #4
The Transformers: Megatron Origin TPB

Children of the Grave TPB–New Printing
The Complete Great and Secret Show TPB, HC, S&N Premiere HC Edition
Lifelike HC
Metal Gear Solid: Sons of Liberty Vol. 2 TPB
Sallyanders (Ash)
Spike: Shadow Puppets TPB

Wormwood: Calimari Rising #1


Badger Saves the World #1

The Complete Great and Secret Show TPB, HC, S&N Premiere HC Edition

Lifelike HC

IDW: With the new Doctor Who *titles, IDW will be chronicling the adventures of the latest Doctor, as well as reprinting the adventures of the Tom Baker fourth Doctor, drawn by Dave Gibbons, probably the traditional incarnation most familiar to American viewers. Which other versions of the Doctor would you most like to work on?*

Nick Roche: I was only a casual viewer as a nipper, never quite managing to win a battle for television supremacy against my soap-watching mother. So the only one I got to see with any degree of consistency was Peter Davison's Doctor, though I caught some Jon Pertwee action a few years previous to "Nu-Who", and really liked it. Hell, I even like the 1996 movie, though possibly more out of a fondness for Paul McGann than anything else. His was the first I took an interest in, though general pop-culture knowledge fills in a lot of *Doctor Who* blanks. I just wanted to be involved in a chapter of something that's been cool for 40-plus years. The concept is pretty unbeatable.

Gary Russell: As a child of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Jon Pertwee was the one for me. Dashing, sophisticated, heroic and clever—Pertwee, I mean, not me. I've never been any of those things.

IDW: So—time to drop some hints about what we're going to see in the series, Gary. Old favorites? New concepts? A bit of both?

GR: Our first issue does feature something from the current show, and a later issue or two features something from waaay back in the series history. But these things should be done sparingly, or it's no longer an event—it's the norm. And normal is dull. Old monsters are all very well and good, but using the big guns like the Daleks, the Cybermen, the Master… it's a bit gauche. If you're going to use recognizable elements from the show—and I think you should where the story allows it, because people like to spot elements they're familiar with—then they need to be fun.

IDW: What kind of challenges do you face when creating new comics based on such an established TV show?

GR: It's about putting characters from one medium into a totally different one, and utilizing the strengths and weaknesses that the new medium has to offer. So I gain from a bigger budget, more extras, and louder bangs, and yet the storytelling has to be as concise, clever and charming as the TV show, but in a wholly different way. This series is different from everything that went before, so you adapt to suit the current environment. That said, of course it is all the same show in spirit. But then again, so are Chris Claremont's *X-Men*, Rob Liefield's *X Men*, Grant Morrison's *X-Men* and Joss Whedon's *X Men*. And yet all of those runs are "of their time", so you borrow a bit here, a bit there, but then remold it to suit what you need to tell the story today. If I can totally slaughter my analogy quotient, it's one big sandbox—we're playing with the same toys, but each kid repaints them to suit their taste. With *Doctor Who*, I'm hoping I don't accidentally pick up the paint pot marked "shocking day-glo green" and produce something unrecognizable.

IDW: What's been the best part so far about working on the project?

NR: I'm having fun stripping down reference photos and turning [the actors] into fully-fledged comic characters while still retaining their likeness. It's a challenge, but coming up with interesting results.

GR: Writing comics. Seriously. I had a brief paddle in the pool when I worked for Marvel UK back in their 1992 explosion until the 1994 implosion, but this is my two lifelong passions colliding magnificently. And Nick Roche—without turning this into an Oscar speech, working with Nick is great because he's collaborative and not precious.

IDW: And what's been the hardest part?

NR: The likenesses again, weirdly. Optimus Prime's cheekbones aren't quite as tricky to get right as Tennant's.

GR: Difficult? No one told me there'd be difficult moments.

IDW. Don't worry, Gary. The doctor is in

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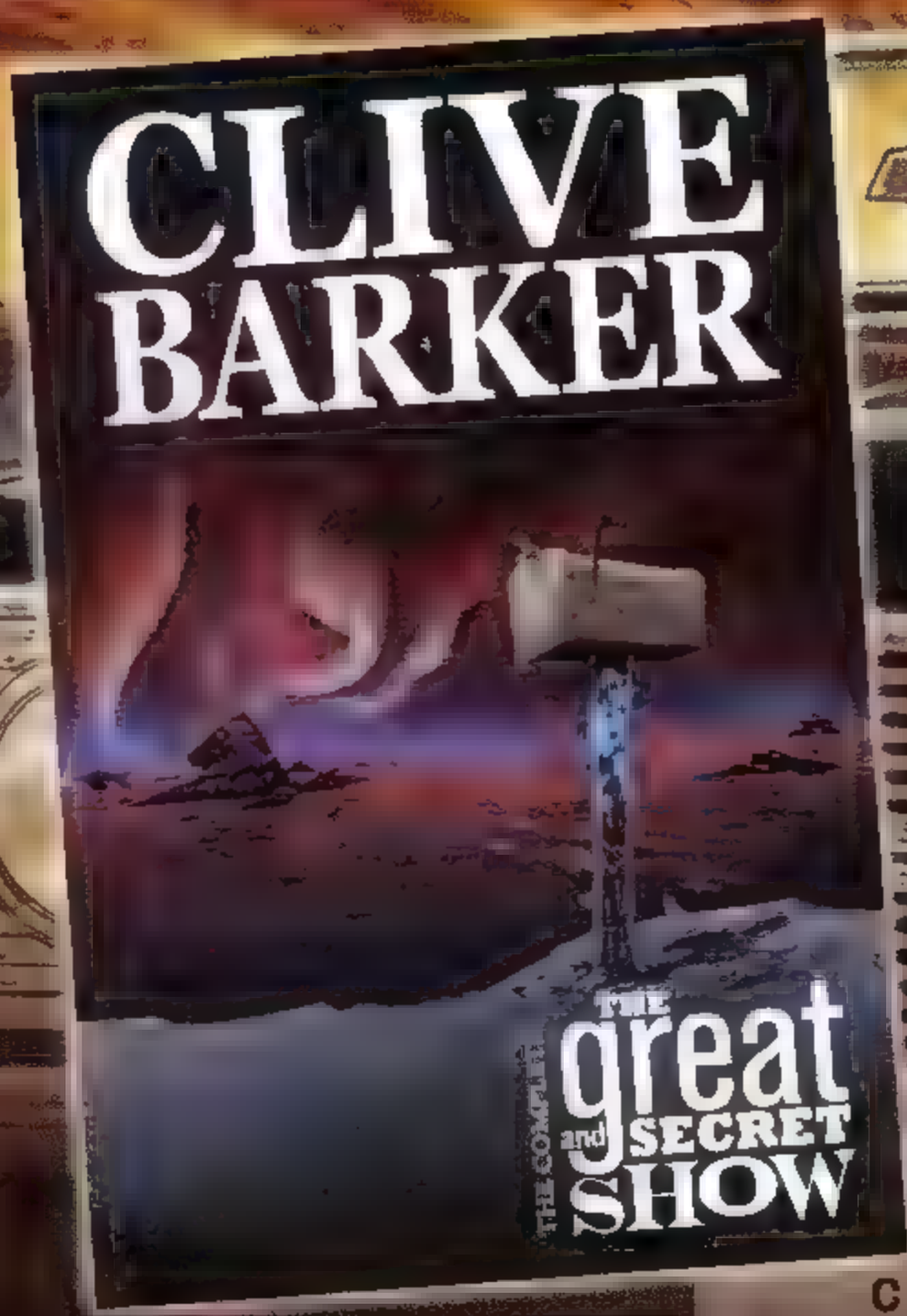
CLIVE BARKER



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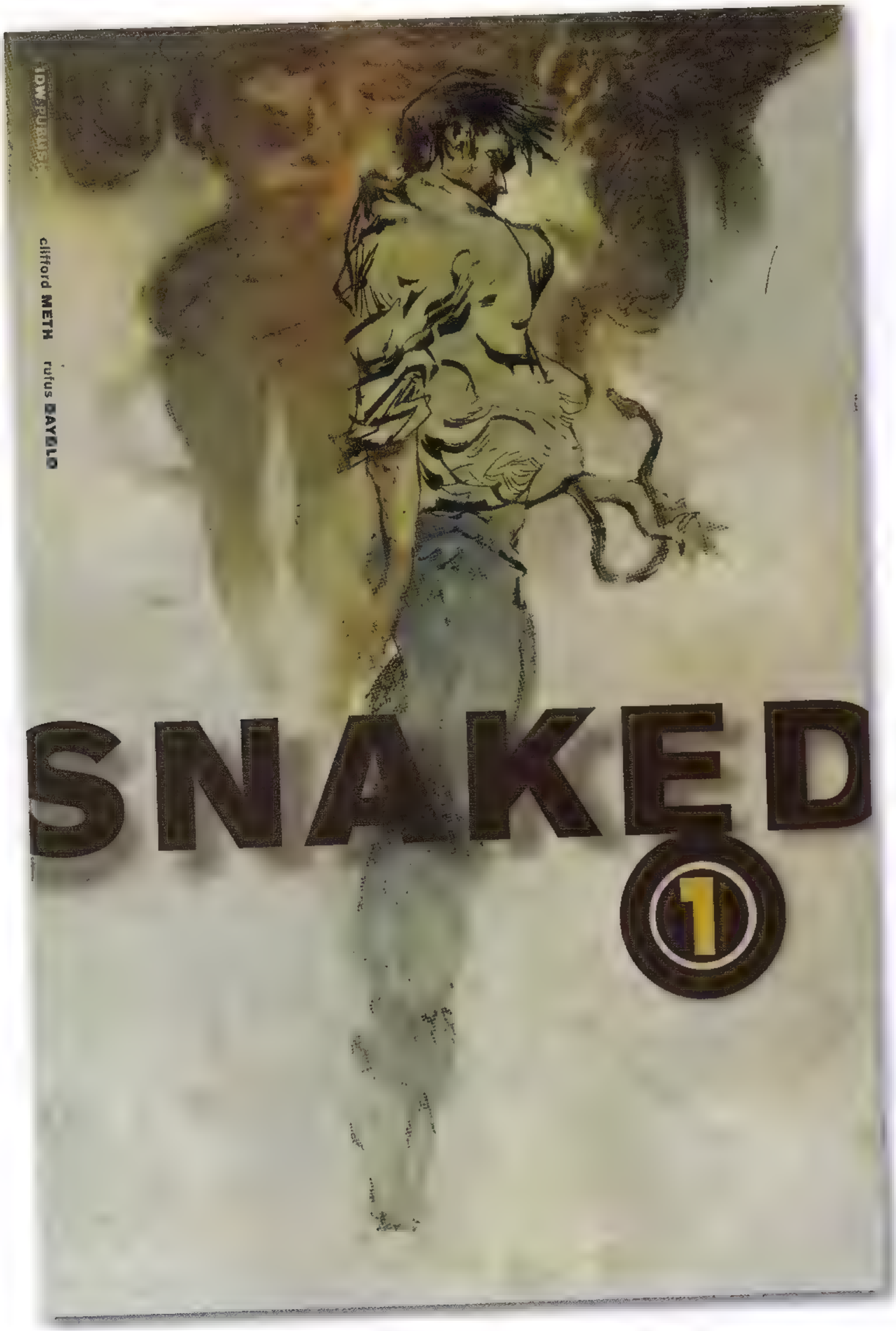

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IDW PUBLISHING

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December 2007

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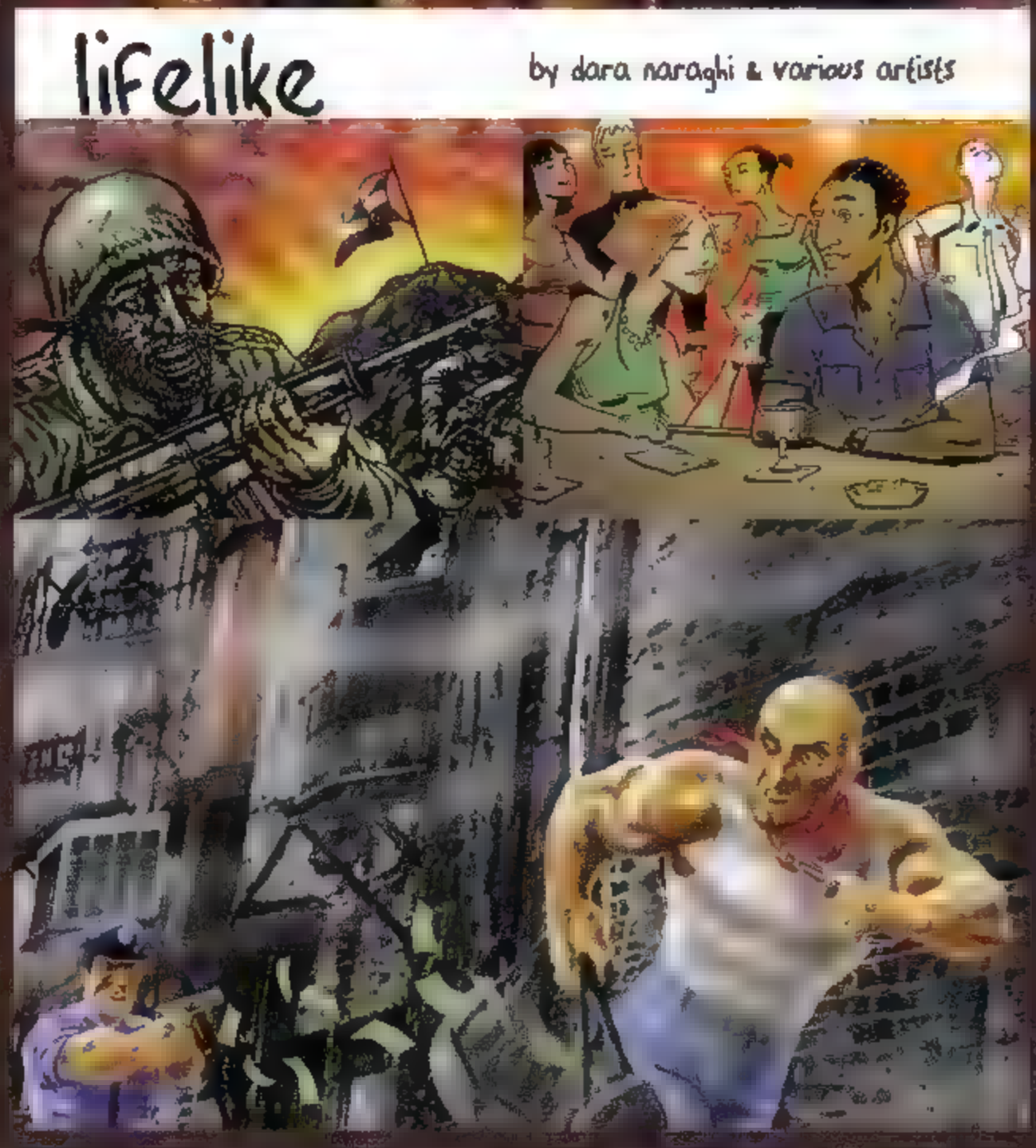

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